

**The second Part of
the famous History of the sea-
uen Champions of Christen-
dome.**

**Likevvise shevving the Princely provvesse of
Saint Georges three Sonnes, the liuely
Sparke of Nobilitie.**

**With many other memoriall atchiuements
worthy the golden spurres of
Knighthood.**



LONDON,
**Printed for Cuttbert Burbie, and are to
be solde at his shop, vnder the
Royall Exchange
1597.**

The second Part

the famous History of the
new Champions of Chastity

home

I like velle shewing the Princely
Gentle and brave the line
Speake on the line

1771 the new order of merit
wonder the golden
Knighthood



Printed for the printer Burdick and
be sold at his shop under the
Royal Exchange

1797



TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE
THE LORDE WILLIAM HOWARD,
Richard Iohnson wisheth encrease
of all prosperity.



¶ It hath, Right Ho-
norable, of late plea-
sed your most noble
brother in kindenes
to accept of this hi-
story, and to grace
it with a fauourable
countenaunce. So
am I nowe embouldened to dedicate this se-
cond part vnto your honour, vvhich here I
humbly offer to your Lordships handes, not
because I thinke it a gift worthy the receauer:
but rather that it should be, as it were a witnes
of the loue and duty vvhich I beare to your

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

Right Noble House.

And when it shall please you to bestowe
the reading of these my rude Discourses, my
humble request is, that you would thinke I
I wish your Honor as many happy dayes, as
there be letters contayned in this Historie.

Thus praying for your Honors chiefe hap-
pynes, I end.

Your Honors in all dutifull loue

to his poore power. R. I.





To the Gentle Reader.



Haue finished the seconde part of the seuen Champions of Christendome, onely for thy delight, being thertoo encouraged by thy greate curtesie in the kinde acceptation of my first part. I haue no eloquent phrases to inuite thy willingnes to read, onely a little barren inuention, wherof I haue no cause to boast, so excellently the wits of many in these daies in that kinde exceed. Onely thy curtesie must be my Buckler, against the carping malice of mocking iesters, that being worst able to doe well, scoffe commonly at that they cannot mend, censuring all thinges, doing nothing, but (monkey like) make apish iests at any thinge they see in Print: and nothing pleaseth them, except it fauor of a scoffing or inuectiue spirite. Well, what those say of me I doe not care, thy delight onely is my desire: And accept it and I am satisfied, reiect it and this shall bee my penaunce neuer againe to come in Print. But hauing better hope, I boldly leade thee to this maine from this doubtfull floude of suspition where I rest. Walke on in the historie, as in an ouergrown & ill husbanded garden: if among all the weedes thou finde one pleasing flower I haue my wish.

Thine Richard Iohnson,



*The second part of the most honoura-
ble Historie of the seauen Champions of
Christendome.*

How Sa. Georges three sonnes were enter-
tained into the famous Cittie of London, and
after how their Mother was slaine in a wood
with the prickes of a thornie brake, her bles-
sing she gaue her sonnes, S. Georges lamenta-
tion ouer her bleeding bodie; and likewise of
the Iourney the seuen Champions intended
to Ierusalem to visit the Sepulcher of Christ.



After Saint George with
the other six Champions
of Christendome (by their
invincible conquests) had
brought into subjection all
the Easterne Parts; and
by dint of bloodie warres
yoked the stubborn Ju-
dels even to the strictest
boundes of Iuda; where
the golden Sonne begin-
neth to arise; as you heard
discourted in the former Part of this Historie, they retur-

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ned with the conquest of Imperiall Diadems, regall crowns and kingly scepters to the rich and plentifull Country of England: where in the famous Citie of London they made a day so iourne'd, a place not onely beautified with sumptuous buildings, but grac'd with a number of valliant Knights and gallant Gentlemen of courtly behaviour, and therewithal aboord with troopes of Ladies, of diuine and celestiaall beauties, that trip it by and downe the streets like to the Grecian Quenes, when as they tyed the Persian Warriars in the silken snares of loue: where by it seemed rather a paradise for heauenlye Angels, than a place for earthly inhabitants.

Here the Christian Champions laid their Armes aside, here hung they by their weapons on the bowers of peace, here their glittering coslets rusted in their Armouries, here was not heard the warlike sound of drums nor silver trumpets, heere stood no Continells nor Courts of guard, nor barbed speeres prepared to the battaile, but all things tended to a lasting peace. They that had wont in Steele coates to sleep in champion fields, lay dallying now in beds of silke: they that had wont with wearie armes to wield the warlike factions, sat now embracing lovely Ladies on their knees: and they whose eares had wont to heare the rullall cryes of slaughtered souldiers, were now occupied with musikes pleasant harmonie.

In this delicious manner liued these Champions in the Citie of London, burying the remembrance of all they former Aduentures in the lakes of oblivion, and spending their times in honorable Wilkes and courtly Ornamentes: where S. George performed many achievements in honor of his beloued Ladi, & the other Knights in honor of their Mistresses.

But of all these George the fourth, Guy, Alexander and David, being all thre borne at one birth, as you heard before in the wilderness, and sent into thre leuesall Kingdomes by their curfull Father to be trained by

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the one into Rome to the warlike Romanes, another into Wittenberg to the learned Germanes, the third into Brittain to the valiant English. But now being grown to some ripenes of age and agilite of strength, they desired much to visit their parents, whom they had not seen from their infancies lying in their cradles; and to crave at his hands the honor of true knighthood, and to wear the golden Spurs of Christendome.

This earnest & princely request so highly pleased theyr Tutor, that they furnished them with a stately traine of knights, and sent them honourably into England, where they arrived all three at one time in the famous Citie of London, where their entertainments were most princely, and their welcomes so honorable, that I want arte to describe and memorie to expresse.

I omit what sumptuous Pageants and delightfull shewes the Cittizens provided, and how the streets of London were beautified with tapestrie, the solempne bells that rung them ioyfull welcomes, and the silver strained instruments that gave them pleasant entertainment. Also I passe over their fathers joy, who prized their sightes more precious in his eyes, than if hee had been made sole Monarch of the golden mynes of rich America: or that euerie haire that grew vpon his head had been equalled with a kingdom, & he to give as manie golden diademes in his Armes. Also the Mothers welcomes to her Sons, who gave them more kisses than shee breathed forth groanes at their deliveries from her painful womb in the wilderness.

The other Champions courties were not the least nor of the smallest in account to these three yong Gentlemen: but so be short, Saint George (whose love was deare vnto his Children) in his owne person conducted them vnto their lodgings, whereas they spent that day and the night following in roiall banquetting amongst their princely friend.

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But no sooner appeared the Morning's Sunne vpon the Mountaine tops, and the cleare countenance of the Elements made motion of some ensuing pastime, but S. George commanded a solempne Hunting for the welcome of his Sonnes.

Then began his knights to arme themselves in troops, and to mount vpon their nimble Jennets, and some with well armed Boare-speares in their handes, prepared for the game on foote: but S. George with his Sonnes clad in green vestments like Adams, with silver hoznes hanging at their backs in scarfes of coloured silke, were still the foremost in this Exercise. Like wise Sabra (intending to see her Sonnes halours displayed in the field, whether they were in courage like their father or no) caused a gentle Hallycray to be provided, whereon she mounted her princely Person to be a witness of these Siluane sports: she was armed with a curious breast-plate wrought like to the scales of a Dolphin, and in her hand she bare a silver bow of the Turkish fashion, like an Amazonian Queen, or Diana hunting in the groues of Arcadie.

Thus in this gallant manner rode forth these Hunters to their princely pastures, where after they had ridden some fye miles from the Cittie of London, fell from S. Georges nose three drops of purple blood, whereat he suddenly started, and there withall he heard the croaking of a flight of night Ravens, that powered by the Forrest hie, all which he indged to be vnsuall signes of some ensuing stratagem: but having a princely mind he nothing discouraged thereat, nor little mistrusted the woofull accident that after happenen, but with a noble resolution entered the Forrest, accounting such foretelling tokens for old times ceremonies. Wherein they had not passed the rompage of halfe a mile, but they started a wilde & swift Stag, at whom they uncoupled their Hounds, and gave hounds to their hozes, and followed the game more swifter, than Pirates that pursue the Merchants vpon the seas.

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leas. But now behold how frowning fortune changed their pleasant pastimes to a sad and bloodie tragedie: for Sabra proffering to keepe pace with them, delighting to behold the valiant encounters of her yong sonnes, and being careless of her selfe thorough the ouer swiftnesse of her Steede, shee slipped beside her saddle, and so fell directly vpon a thornie brake of brambles, the prickes wherof more sharpe than spikes of Steele entered to euerie part of her delicate bodie: some pierced the louely closets of her starre-bright eyes, whereby (instead of christall pearled teares) there issued drops of purest blood: her face before that blushed like the mornings radiant countenance, was now exchanged into a crimson red: her milke white hands that lately strained the yuorie Lute, did seeme to weare a bloodie scarlet glove: and her tender paps that had so often fed her Sonnes with the milke of nature, were all berent and torne with these accursed brambles: from whose deep wounds there issued such a streame of purple goze, that it conuerted the grasse from a lively green to a crimson hiea, and the abundance of blood that trickled from her breast, began to inforce her soule to giue the world a last farewell. Yet notwithstanding, when her beloued Lord, her sorrowfull Sonnes, and all the rest of the worthie Champions, had washed her wounded bodie with a Spring of teares, and when she perceiued that she must of force commit her life to the farr of imperious death, shee breathed forth this dying Exhortation.

Deare Lord (said she) in this unhappie Hunting must you lose the truest Wife that euer lay by Princes side: yet mourne you not, nor grieue you my Sonnes, nor you haue Christian Knights, but let your warlike drummes conuay me royally into my Eoombe, that all the world maye write in brazen Bookes, how I haue followed my Lord (the Prince of Chifferidonie) thorough many a bloodie field, and for his sake haue left my Parents, Friends, and Countrey, and haue travelled with him through ma-

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nie a dangerous Kingdome: but now the cruell Fates
 haue wrought their latest spites, and finished my life, be-
 cause I am not able to performe what loue he hath deser-
 ued of me. And now to you my sonnes, this blessing do
 I leave behinde: euen by the paines that fortie weekes I
 once endured for your sakes, when as you lay enclosed in
 my wombe, and by my travels in the wilderness, whereas
 my groanes vpon your birth sayd (in my thinking) cause
 both trees and stones to drop dolour teares, when as the
 mercilesse Tygers & cruelle Lyons did stand like gen-
 tle Lambes, and moued to heare my lamentations: and
 by a Mothers loue that euer since I haue borne you, imi-
 tate & follow your Father in all his honorable attempts,
 haue not the silly Infant, nor the helpelesse Willdow, de-
 fend the honour of distressed Ladies, and giue freely vnto
 wounded Souldiers: take not to stain the vnspotted vir-
 gins with your lusts, and aduenture euermore to redeeme
 true Knights from captiuitie: line euer professed enemies
 to paganism, and spend your lines in the quarrel and de-
 fence of Christ, that Babes (as yet vnborne) in time to
 come may speake of you, and record you in the Bookes of
 fame to be true christian Champions. This is my bles-
 sing, and this is the Testament I leave behinde: for now
 I feele the chills of pale death closing the closets of my
 eyes: Farewell haue worlde, deere Lord farewell, sweet
 Sonnes, you famous fellows of my George, and all true
 Christian Knights, adieu.

These words were no sooner ended, but with a heauie
 sigh she yeelded vp the ghost: whereat Saint George (be-
 ing impatient in his sorrowes) fell vpon her linelesse bo-
 die, rending his haire, and tearing his hunters attyre
 from his backe into a thousand peeces: and at last when
 his griefes somewhat diminished, he fell into these bitter
 lamentations.

Gone is the starre (said he) that lightned all þe so-
 pherous worlde, withered is the Rose that beautified our
 Christi-

the Ienon Champions.

Christian fields, dead is the Dame that for her beautie
 stained all Christian women: for whom he fill the aire
 with euermourning moanes. This day henceforth be fatal
 to all times, and counted for a vniuersall day of death. Let
 neuer the Sunne the to day his beames thereon againe,
 but cloudes as blacke as pitch couer the earth with fear-
 full darknes. Let euerie Tree in this accursed Forrest,
 henceforth be blasted with vnkindly windes: let bran-
 bles, heards and flowers consume and wither, let grasse
 and blooming buds perishe and decay, and all things nere
 the place where shee was slaine, be turned to a vniuersall
 blacke and sable colour, that the Earth it selfe in mour-
 ning garments may lament her losse. Let neuer Birds
 sing cherefully in top of trees, but like the mournfull mu-
 sicke of the Nightingale, fill all the aire with fatal tunes:
 let bubbling riuers murmur for her losse, & siluer Swans
 that swim thereon sing dolefull melodie: let all the dales
 belonging to these fatal woods be couered with Greene bel-
 eyed serpents, croaking toades, hissing snakes, and sight-
 killing cochatrices: in blasted trees let fearful Ravens
 shriek, let hawkelets crye, and crickets sing, that after this
 it may be called a place of dead mens wandring ghosts.
 Woe fonde wretch, why doe I thus lament in vaine, and
 bathe her bleeding bodie with my teares, when graue by
 no meanes will recall her life: Yet this shall satisfie her
 soule, for I will goe a Pilgrimage vnto Ierusalem, & offer
 vp my teares to Iesus Christ vpon his blessed Sepulcher,
 by which my stained soule may be washt from this bloody
 guilt, which was the cause of this sorrowfull dayes mis-
 happe.

These sorrowfull words were no sooner ended, but hee
 took her bleeding limmes betwixt his fainting armes,
 and gaue a hundred kisses vpon her dying coloured lips,
 retaining yet some colour of Alabaster new washt in pur-
 ple blood, and in this extasie a while lying, gaue waye to
 others to behold their woes.

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But his Spawnes whose sorowes wer as great as his, protested neuer to neglect one day, but duly wepe a sea of teares vpon their Fathers grane, till from the Earth did spring some mournfull flower, to beare remembrance of her death; as did the Violet that sprung from chaste Adonis blood; when Venus wept to see him slaine. Likewise the other five Champions (that all the time of their lamentations stood like men drownd in the depth of sorrow) began now a little to recover themselves: and after protested by the honour of true Knighthood, and by the Spur and golden Charter of S. Georges leg, to accompanie him vnto the holy Land, bare footed without either hose or shoe, onely clad in russet gaberdiens, like the vsual Pilgrimes of the world, and neuer to returne till they haue payd their duties vpon that blessed Sepulcher.

Thus in this sorrowful manner weared they the time away, filling the ayres with Echoes of their lamentations, and retoyning their dolours to the whistling windes: but at last, when blacke Night began to approach, and with her sable mantles to ouerspread the cheikill firmament, they rettyred (with her dead bodie) backe to the Citie of London, where the report of this tragicall accident, drownded their friends in a sea of sorrow: for the newes of her timelesse death was no sooner bruted abroad, but the same caused both olde and young to lament the losse of so sweete a Ladie. The bluer headed age that had wont in scarlet gownes to meete in Coincell, sat now at home in discontented griefes: the gallant youths and comely virgins that had wont to beautifie the streets with costlye garments, went drouping vp and downe in blacke and mournfull bestures: and those remoucellesse hearts that hitherto were oppressd with sorrow, now constrained their eyes like fountaines to distilla stons of bright and pearly teares.

This generall griefe of the Citizens continued for the space of thirtie dayes, at the ende whereof Saint George with

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with his Sonnes and the other Champions interred her body verie honourably, and erected ouer the same a rich and costly Monument (in sumptuous state like the tomb of Mausolus, which was called one of the Wonders of the World: or like to the Pyramides of Greece, which is a shame to all Architectures): for thereon was portrayed the Queene of Chastitie with her Maydens, bathing themselves in a chrysell fountaine, as a witnesse of her wondrous Chastitie, against the lustfull allayments of manie a Knight. Thereon was also most lively pictured a Turtle-doue sitting vpon a tree of gold, in signe of the true loue that she bore to her betrothed husband. Also a silver coloured Swan swimming vpon a Chrysell riuer, as a token of her beautie: for as the Swan excelleth al other fowles in whitenes, so she for beautie excelled all Ladies in the world.

I leaue to speake of the curious workmanship of the pinacles that were framed all of the purest iust, the pumels of silver and Jasper Stones. Also I omit the Pavants of gold, the Scutcheons of Pincts, & the Armes of Countreyes that beautified her Doombe: the discourse whereof requires an Orators eloquence, or a penne of golde dypt in the dew of Helicon or Pernassus Hill, where as the Muses doo inhabit. Her Statue or Picture was carued cunningly in alabaster, and layd (as it were) vpon a pillow of greene silk, like vnto Pigmaliions puerie Image, and directly ouer the same hung a silver Tablet, whereon in letters of golde was this Epitaph written,

Here lies the wonder of this worldly age
For beautie, vyit, and princely maiestie,
Whom spitefull death in his imperious rage
Procurde to fall through ruthlesse cruelkie:

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In leaue sports within a fragrant wood,
Vpon a thornie brake she spilt her blood.

Let Virgins pure and Princes of great might,
With siluer perled teares imbaine this tomb,
Accuse the fatall sisters of despight,
For blasting thus the pride of natures bloom:
For here she sleeps within this earthly graue,
whose worth deserues a golden tomb to haue

Seauen yeares she kept her sweet Virginitie,
In absence of her true betrothed Knight,
When thousands did perceiue her chastitie,
Whilst he remaind in prison daye and night:
But yet we see that things of purest prize,
Forfakes the earth to dwell about the skies.

Maidens come mourne with dolefull melody
And make this monument your settled bower
Here shed your brackish teares eternally,
Lament both yere, month, week, day, hower:
For here she rests whose like can nere be found
Her beauties pride lyes buried in the ground.

the seuen Champions.

Her wounded hart that yet doth freshly bleed,
Hath caused seuen knights a iourney for to take
To faire Ierusalem in Pilgrimes weed,
The furie of her angrie ghost to flake:
Because their siluane sports was chiefest guilt,
And onely cause her blood was timeles spilt.

Thus after the Tomb was erected, and the Epitaph ingrauen in a siluer Tablet, and al things performed according to Saint Georges direction, he left his Donnes in the Cittie of London vnder the gouernment of the English King: and in companie of the other six Champions, he took his iourney towards Ierusalem.

They were attired after the manner of Pilgrimes, in russet gaberdines downe to their soote, in their hands they boze stanes of Ebon wood tipt at the endes with siluer, the pikes whereof were of the strongest Lydian Steele, of such a sharpnes that they were able to pierce a target of Tox toxs shell: vpon their bzeasts hung Crosses of crimson silke, to signifie that they were Christian Pilgrimes, travelling to the Sepulcher of Christ.

In this manner set they forward from England in the Spring time of the yeare, when Flora had beautified the earth with Natures tapestrie, and made their passages as pleasant as the Gardens of Hesperides, adozned with all kinde of odoriferous flowers. When as they crossed the seas, the siluer waues seemed to lye as smooth as crystal pce, and the Dolphins to dance aboue the water, as a signe of a prosperous iourney. In travelling by land the waues seemed so short and easie, and the chirping melody of birdes made them such musique as they passed, that in a short season they arrived beyond the borders of Christendome, and had entred the confines of Africa.

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Where were they forced in need of dolefull beds nightly
to rest their wearie limmes: upon heapes of sun-burnt
mistle: and in need of fischen curtens and curious canopies,
they had the cloudes of heauen to couer them. How
their naked legs and bare feet, that had went to stride the
statelie stades, and to trample in fields of Pagans blood,
were forced to climb the traggle mountaines, and to en-
dure the torments of pricking briers, as they trauiayled
thorough the desert places and comfortlesse solitarie wil-
dernesses.

Quante were the dangers that hapned to them in theyr
Journey, befor they arrived in Iudea, and most princely
their atchieuements, and honourable their adventures:
which for this time I passe ouer, leauing the Champions
sometime in their tranell towards the holy Sepulcher of
Christ, and speake what happened to **sa. Georges** the
Rede dragon slaying their spother's Tombe in the Citie of
London.

And thus I haue shewed you the first part of the
story of the Champions, which I haue written for you
to see, and to be a warning to all men, that they
may be as they should be, and not as they are.



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CHAP.

the seven Champions.



CHAP. II.

Of the strange giftes that S. Georges sonnes offered at their Mothers Toombe, and vvhathapned thereupon: howv her Ghost appeared to them, and counselled them to the pursute of their Father: also, howv the Ki. of England installed them with the honor of knight-hood, and furnished them vvith abillments of vvarre.



Hestwiftfoote feedes of Titans fierie Carre had almost finished a yere, since Sabraes Funerall was solemnized: in which time Saint Georges thre sonnes had visited their Mothers Tomb oftner than there were dayes in the yere, and had shed as manie teares thereon in remembraunce of her lone, as there were starres in the glistering beyle of Heauen: but at last these thre yong Princes fell at a ciuill disoord and deadly strife, which of them should beare the truest loue vnto their Mothers dead bodie, and which of them should be held in greatest esteeme. For before manie dayes were expired, they concluded to offer vp thre seuerall deuotions at her Tombe: and he that deuised a gift of the rarest prize and of the straungest qualitie, should bee held in the

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greatest honour, and accompted the noblest of them all. His determination was speedily perfourmed, and in so short a time accomplished, that it is wonderfull to discourse.

The first thinking to exceed his brothers in the strangenes of his Gift, made repaire vnto a cunning Inchauntresse, which had her abiding in a secret caue adioyning to the Cittie, whom he procured (through manie rich gifts and large promises) by arte to deuise a meane to get the honoꝝ from his Bretheren, & to haue a gift of that strange nature, that all the world might wonder at the report thereof.

The Inchauntresse (being won with his promises) by her artes and magicke spells, deuised a Garland containing all the diuersitie of flowers that euer grew in earthly Gardens: and though it were in the dead time of winter, when as the fluer yfles had disrobd both heare and flower of their beauties, and the poſtherne snow lay freezing on the mountaine tops, yet was this Garland contriued after the fashion of a rich Imperial Crowne, with as manie seuerall flowers as euer Flora placed vpon the downes of rich Arcadia: in diuersitie of colours lyke the glittering Raine-bow, when as it shineth in her greatest pride: and casting such an odoriferous sent and sweete savor, as though the Heauens had rained downe showers of Camphere, Bisse, or Amber-grace.

This rare and exceeding Garland was no soone framed by Inchauntment, and deliuered into his hands, but he left the Inchauntresse sitting in her Ebony chaire vpon a blocke of Steele (practising her satall artes), with her hair hanging about her sholders, like wyres of snakes or inuened serpents: and so returned to his Mothers tombe, where he hung it vpon a pillar of siluer that was placed in the middle of the Monument.

The second Brother likewise repaired to the Tombe, and brought in his hand an yuozie Lute, wheron he played
such

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such inspiring melodie, that it seemed like the harmony of Angels, or the celestiall musique of Apollo when hee descended heauen for the loue of Daphne, whom hee turned into a Bay tree. The musicke being finished, he tied vs Late in a damaske scarffe, and with great humilitie hee hung it at the west ende of the Tombe vpon a knobbe of Iasper Stone.

Lastly, the third Brother likewise repaired with no outward deuotion or worldly gift: but clad in a vesture of white silke, bearing in his hand an instrument of death, like an innocent Lambe going to sacrifice: or one readie to be offered for the loue of his mothers soule.

This strange manner of repaire, caused his other brothers to stand attentiuely, and with vigilant eyes to behold the conclusion.

First, after he had (submissiuely and with great humilitie) let fall a shouer of siluer teares from the cisternes of his eyes, in remembrance of his Mothers timeles tragedie, he pyckt his naked breast with a siluer bodkin, the which he brought in his hand, from which there trickled downe some thirtie drops of blood, which he after offered vp to his Mothers Tombe in a siluer bason, as an euident signe that there can be nothing more dearer, nor of more precious price, than to offer vp his owne blood for her loue. This ceremonious gift caused his two other Brothers to swell in hatred like two chafed Lions, and with furie to run vpon him, intending to catch him by the haire of the head, and to drag him round about their Mothers Tomb, till his byaines were dashed against the marble pauement, and his blood sprinkled vpon her graue: but this wicked enterprize so moued the Paieritie of heauen, that ere they could accomplish their intents, or staine their hands in his blood, they heard (as it were) the noise of dead mens bones rattling in the ground. And thereupon (looking fearfully about) the Tombe seemed of it selfe to open, and thereout to appeare a most terrible and ghastly shape,
pale,

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pale, like vnto ashes, in countenance resembling they?
Mother with her bzeast besmeared in blood, and her bodie
wounded with a hundred scarres: and so with a dismall e
ruffull looke she spake vnto her desperate Sonnes in thys
manner.

Oh you degenerate from Natures kinde, why doe you
seek to make a murther of your selues? can you indure
to see my bodie rent in twaine, my heart split in sander,
and my wombe dismembred? Abate this furie, staine not
your hands with your owne bloods, noz make my Tombe
a spectacle of moze death. Unite your selues in concord,
that my discontented soule may sleepe in peace, and neuer
moze be troubled with your vnbridled humours. Make
hast I say, and arme your selues in steeled corselets, and
follow your valiant Father to Ierusalem, for he is there in
danger and distresse of life. Away I say, or els my angry
ghost shall neuer leaue this world, but haunt you by and
downe with gasty visions.

This being said, she vanished from their sight, lyke to
the byttle ayre, whereat for a time they stood amazed and
almost distraught of their wits, thorough the terrour of
her wordes: but at last recovering their former senses, they
all bowed by the eternall Maiestie of Heauen, neuer to
proffer the like iniurie againe, but to liue in brotherly co-
cord and vnitie till the dissolution of their earthly bodies.
So in all hast they went vnto the King, and certefied him
of all things that had happened: and falling vpon they?
knees before his Maiestie, requested at his hands the ho-
nour of Knighthood, and leaue to depart in the pursute
of their Father and the other Champions, that were fal-
len in great distresse.

The King purposing to accomplish their desires, and
to fulfill their requests, presently condescended, and not
onely gaue them the honour of Knighthood, but furnished
them with rich habiliments of warre, answerable to their
magnanimious mindes. First he frankly bestowed vpon
pon

the new Champions.

pon them three stately Balphryes, bzed upon the bright
mountaines of Sardaigne: to colour like to an Iron gray,
bedazzled with silver beezes; and in pace more swifter
then the Spanish Cingles, which be a kinde of horse ingen-
bred by the winds upon the Alpes, that be certaine crag-
ged mountaines that divide the Kingdomes of Italy and
Spaine: in bouldnes and courage, they were like to Beu-
cephalus the horse of Macedonian Alexander, or to Cæsars
steedes that neuer daunted in the field, for they were trap-
ped with rich trappings of gold after the Moroco fashion
with Saddels frayed like unto Iron chaires with backs
of Steele, and their foreheads were beautified with span-
gled plumes of purple feathers, whereon hung many
golden pendents: the king like was bedressed upon them
three costly sinces, be wrought of purest Arabian Steele, with
Lances bound about with plates of brasse, at the toppes
theresof hung liken to streamers beautified with the Eng-
lish Crosse, being the crimson badge of English hood and
honour of aduenterous champions: Thus in this Royall
manner rode these three young Knights from the City of
London in companie of the King with a traine of knights
and gallant Gentlemen which conducted them unto the
Sea side, where they left them unto their future fortunes
and returned backe to the English Court.

Now is Saint George's horses riding on the beam,
making their first adventures in the world, that after
ages might applaud their achievement, and inscribe their
names in the records of honor, heaven prosper them suc-
cessfully, and gentle fortune smile upon their travels, for
these brave knights will never cross the sea, nor make
their adventures into strange countries.

CHAPTER 1

The second Part of

How Saint Georges sonnes after they vvere
knighted by the English King, trauailed to-
wards Barbant, and how they redeemed the

Dukes Daughter of Normandie from rauish-
ment, that was layed in a wood by three

lawlesse Negroes: and also of the tragicall tale
of the Virginnes strange miserie, with other ac-
cidents that happened.

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the seven Champions

childish armes as yet neuer tried the painfull adventures
of knightshood, yet beca they high and princely cogitatio-
ons in as great esteem, as when their father slew the
burning Dragon in Aegypt, for preservation of their mo-
thers life. And thus they to the further Parts of the King-
dome of France (guided onely by the direction of fortune)
without any adventure worth the noting, till at last ry-
ding through a mightie Forrest standing on the Borders
of Lusitania, they heard (a farre off as it were) the rusall
crys of a distressed woman: which in this manner filled
the eare with the Echo of her moanes.

Oy heavens (sayd they) bee kind and pittifull unto a
Maide in distresse, and send some happy passengers that
may deliuer me from these inhumane monsters.

This wooll and vnerpected noyse, caused the knights
to alight from their horses, and to see the event of this ac-
cident. So after they had tied their horses to the boughs of
a Pine tree by the reynes of their bridles, they walked on
foote into the thickest of the Forrest with their weapons
drawne, ready to withstand any assault whatsoeuer:
as they were neuer to the distressed Virgin, they heard
her breathe forth this pittie mouing lamentation the se-
cond time.

Come, come, some courteous knight, or else I must for-
goe that precious Jewell, which all the world can neuer
again recover.

These wordes caused them to make the more speed, and
to run the narrow way to the Maides succour. At last,
they approached her presence, where they found her tyed
by the locks of her golden haire to the trunk of an orange
tree, and round about and inhumane Negroes standing rea-
dy to despoyle her of her chastite, and with their lances to
blast the blooming bud of her swete and unspotted Virgi-
nity.

But when Saint Georges Swaine beheld her lowly

The second Part of it

conference between them, that before towards bedide
 stilling against my will, I did not with all eyes the pite
 ful picture of my father, of whom I had not in floods
 of tears, when I saw they ran from the Negroes, and
 sheathed their angry weapons in their loathsome bodies;
 the heathen being thus, their blots, which I had about the
 ground, and then I saw a picture of my father, for I had
 by the side of the house, they had in the garden, and like
 unto a light on him, when the cause of my captivity
 and by what means I came into that solitary place, the
 spirit of noble knights quoth he, and I was wounded men
 at arms, to tell the cause of my past miseries were a
 prick into my soul, and the picture thereof will, but it
 my heart with grief, but considering your nobility, the
 which I perceive by your princely behaviour, and your
 kind carities extended towards me, being a Virgin in
 distress, when the hands of these fell full Negroes, whom
 you have fully rescued, shall implore me, though unto
 my heart's great grief, to discourse the true cause of my
 miserable fortune. I have said to him, I will not
 my father (quoth she) which gentle fortune, similar
 to my father, was a Duke and sole commander of the state
 of Normandy, a country now situated in the kingdom of
 France, whose lands & revenues in his prosperity was
 so great, that he continually kept as many a train, both
 of knights and gallant gentlemen as any Prince in Eu-
 rope, whereat the King of France greatly envied, and by
 bloody warres deposed my father from his princely dig-
 nity, who for the safeguard of his life in company of mee, his
 only heire and daughter, betooke he to these solitary
 woods, where ever since we have secretly remained in a
 poor cell or hermitage, which by your industrious pains
 hath been builded with plants of vines and baken bones,
 and covered over head with cloddes of earth, and furrles
 of grasse, seven yeares we have continued in great ex-
 tremitie sustaining our hunger with the barkes of
 trees,

the fouen Champions.

tries, and adorning our spirits with the vertue of hea-
 ven, that falleth nightly upon fragrant flowers here in
 beds of princely odour, imbowered garments and or-
 namented beures, we have bene constrained to claue our
 selves in flowers, the which the same cunningly tooen
 up together, innoce in sight, and may easily be seen

There is a seat of musick, that had most day mo-
 ning to delight our eares, the same the whistling winde
 rebounding in the woods our clockes to tell the minutes
 of the wandering night, the snakes and toades that flap
 in rootes of rotten trees, our canopies to cover us, are
 not wrought of Medias like, the which the Indian Vir-
 gins weare upon their silver loombes, but the sable
 cloudes of heauen, when as the cherefull day hath clos'd
 her christall windowes by, and sitting you downe

This in this manner continued wee in this solitary
 wilderness, making both birds and beastes our chief com-
 panions, till the mercilesse Spores (whose hateful pest
 you have made like fountaines to water the parch-
 ed earth with streames of blood :) who came into our
 cell, as simple cabinet, thinking to have found some store
 of treasure. But casting their gazing eyes upon my bea-
 stie, they were presently inchaunted with a lustfull desire,
 onely to crop the sweet bud of my virginitie. When with
 a furious and vnsual countenance, more blacke then
 the sable garments of sad Melpomene, when with
 her strawberie quill she writes of bloody tragedies: or
 with a heart more crueller, than was Neroes the ty-
 rannous Romane Emperour, when he beheld the en-
 trailles of his naturall Mother layde open by his in-
 humane and mercilesse commandement: or when he
 stood upon the highest toppe of a mightie mountaine
 to see that famous and Imperiall Cittie of Rome set
 on fire by the remorselesse handes of his prescient
 ministers, that added unhallowed flames to his unholy
 fire.

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These merciless and wicked minded Negroes with violent hands on my aged Father, and most cruelly bore him to the blasted bodie of a topthered oak, standing before the entrise of his Cell: where, neither the reverence of his silver haire, that glittered like the frozen yficles upon the Northern Mountaines, nor the Grayish light of his beaust, whereby the pledge of wisdom was imprinted; nor all my teares or extortations could arie to hit abate their cruelties, but like grim dogs of Barbarie, they left my Father fall bound unto the tree, and like egregious vipers took me by the trammells of my golden haire, and dragd me like a silly Lambe unto this slaughtering place, intending to satiate their lusts with the flower of my chastitie.

Here I made my humble supplication to the Paleſtye of Heauen, to bee reuenged vpon their cruelties: I reported to them the rewards of bloody raniſhments by the example of Tereus that lustfull King of Thrace, and by his furious Wife, that in reuenge of her sisters raniſhment caused her Husband to eate the fleshy of his owne Sonne. Like wise (to preserve my unbeſpotted honoꝝ) I told them, that for the Rape of Lucrece the Roman Patron, Tarquinias and his name was for ever banished out of Rome: with many other examples, like the Pigeons, whose dolefull tunes as yet record nothing but rape and murder. Yet neither the frownes of heauen, nor the terrible threats of hell, could mollifie their bloody mindes: but they protested to perseuer in that wickednes, & vowed that if all the leaues of the Trees that grew within the Wall were turned into yubian Pearle, & made as wealthy as the golden Streams of Pactolus, where Mydas waſht his golden Will with a way: yet shuld they not redeme my chastitie from the ſtaine of their insatiable and lustfull desires.

After being talo, they bound mee with the trammells of myne owne haire to this Dyeuge tree, and at the very instant

the seven Champions.

that they offered to bestir my unpotted bodie, but by the mercifull working of God, you happily approached, & not only redeemed me from their pernicious desires, but quit the world from thee of the wickedest creatures that supernature framed. For which (most noble and invincible Knights) if ever Virgins prayers may obtaine favour at the Mercie of Heaven, humbly will I make my supplications, that you may prove as valiant champions, as ever put on helmes: and that your names may ring to everie Princes eare, as far as bright Hyperion shewes his golden face.

This tragicall tale was no longer ended, but the three Knights (whose remorsefull hearts sobbes with sighes) embraced the sorrowfull Maiden betwixt their armes, & earnestly requested her to conduct them unto the place, where as she left her father bound unto the withered oke. To which she willingly consented, and thanked them highly for their kindnes: but before they approached to the place, what for the griefe of his banishment and the violent rage of his daughter, he was forced to yield up his miserable life to the mercies of unanoydable death.

When Saint Georges valiant Sonnes (in companie of this sorrowfull Maiden) came to the tree, and (contrarie to their expectations) found her Father cold and stiffe, both devoid of sense and feeling, also finding his hands & face covered with greene moss, which they supposed to be done by the Robin red-breast and other little birds, who naturally cover the bare parts of anie bodie which they finde dead to the world. They fell into a new continuall extremitie of griefe.

But especially his daughter, being to have lost all joy and comfort in this world, made both heaven & earth to resound with her exceeding lamentations, and mourned without comfort like weeping Niobe, that was turned into a rocke of stone, her griefe so abounded for the losse of her

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her children when the three young knights themselves
with the comely baron of the Virgin and how she had
found never to depart from that solitary ground; but to
spend the remnant of her daies in company of his dead
body. they curiously assisted her to burie him under a
chestnut tree, where they left her continually watching his
sepulchre grave with her tears and returned hither to
their houses, where they left them at the gate of the city
rested into a lodging place, and departed on their way.

Therefore will leave them for a time, and speak of the
seven Champions of Christendome, that were gone on
pilgrimage to the Citty of Ierusalem; and what strange
adventures happened to them in their travels.

And thus we leave them for a time, and speak of the
seven Champions of Christendome, that were gone on
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the seven Champions

CHA. III.

Of the Adventure of the Golden Fountaine in Damasco: how sixe of the Christian Champions were taken prisoners by a mightie Giant, and after how they were deliuered by Saint George: and also how he redeemed fourteene Iewes out of prison: with diuers other strange accidents that happened.



Let vs now speake of the fauorable clemencie that shinning Fountaine sheweth to the Christian Champions in their trauels to Ierusalem. For after they were departed from England, and had iournelled in their Pilgrimes attire thorough manie strange Countreys, at last they arrived vpon the Confines of Damasco, which is a Countrey not onely beautified with sumptuous and costly buildings framed by the curious Architectures of many beutes, but also furnished with all the precious gifts that Nature or her greatest Beneficence could bestow.

In this fruitfull Dominion long time the Christian Champions rested their wearie steps, and made theyr abode in the house of a rich and courteous Jew, a man that spent his wealth chiefly for the succour and comfort of travellers,

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nellers, and wandring Pilgrims, his house was not curi-
ous, nor of a goodly carued timber work, but framed with
quarries of blew stones, and supported by many stately pil-
lars of the purest marble: The gates and entrie of his
house were continually kept open in signe of his bounti-
full minde, ouer the portall thereof hung a brazen table,
whercon was most curiously ingrauen the picture of Ce-
res the Goddess of plenty deckt with garlands of wheate,
wreathes of Oliues, bunches of Vines, and with all man-
ner of fruitfull things, the chamber wherein these Chan-
pions took their nightly repales and golden sleeps, was
garnished with as many windows of Christall glasse, as
there were daies in the yere, and the wals painted with
as many pictures as there were yeres since the world be-
gan: it was likewise build four square, after the manner of
pyramids in Greece, at the east ende wherof was moste
liuely portrayed, bright Phoebus rising from Auroras gol-
den bed, whose glittering countenance at his departure,
discoloured the elements with a purple colour. At the west
side was likewise portrayed how Thetis stripped vpon the
silver sands when as Heperion came vnto the watrre
Ocean, and takes his nights repose vpon his lones bo-
soms: on the south side was painted vncountaines of snow
whosetops did seeme to reach to heauen, & mightie woods
ouer hung with silver fitches, which is the nature of the
Perthure Climate.

Lastly vpon the west side of the chamber satte the God
of the seas riding vpon a Dolphins backe, with an hun-
dred Permaides following him, with their golden tra-
mels, sitting vpon the silver waves, there the Tritons
seemed to dounce about the Christall streams with a num-
ber of other silver scaled fishes that made the sea delight-
full in pleasure.

Ouer the rofe of the Chamber was most perfectly por-
trayed the foure ages of the World, which seemed to ouer-
spred the rest of the curious workes.

the ſeuen Champions.

First the golden age was pendant ouer the Eaſt: the ſecond being the ſilver a mettie ſomewhat bayer than the firſt, ſeemed to ouerſpzed the freezing North. The thirde, which was the bzaen age, beautified the weſterne parte: The fourth and laſt being of Irone, being the baſeſt of them all, ſeemed to bee pondant ouer the Southerne clymate.

Thus in this curious Chamber reſted theſe wearie Champions a long ſeaſon, where their food was not delicious but wholſome, and their ſeruiſes were not curious, but comely: anſwerable to the bzaue mindes of ſuch Heroical Champions: the curteous Jew their friendly hoſt whome nature had honozed with ſeuen comely ſonnes dayly kept them company, and not only ſheued them the curioſitie of this habitation, but alſo diſcribed the pleaſant ſituation of his Countrie, how the towneſ & Cities were ornamented with all manner of delights, that they ſeemed like the immortall Pallaces of heauen, where celeftiall Angelles doe recozd their Hermonies, and the fieldes and flowing medowes ſo beautified with natures glaſſome ornaments, that they ſeemed ſo pleasure to excede the paradise of Eliuzum, where crowned ſoules doe line in endles glory.

The dayes were ſpent away in ſuch manner diſcourſes to the excedding pleaſure of the Chriſtian Knights, and euermoze when darke night appoched, and the wonted time of ſleepe ſommoned them to their ſilent and quiet reſtes, the Jewes children being ſeuen of the bzaueſt and comlyeſt boyes that euer dame nature framed, tyed the Chriſtian Champions eares wyth ſuche ſweete inspiring Melodies which they ſtrayned from the Jewiſh Lutes, that not Arion (when all the Arte of muſique conſented with his tune, voyce, and hand; when hee won mercy of the Dolphin, being forſaken of men) was comparable thereto. Whereby the Chriſtian Champions were

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were enchanted with such delights, that they golden sleepes seemed to be as pleasant as the sweete ioyes of Paradise.

But vpon a time, after the curteous Jew had intelligence how they were Christian Knights, and those admired martiall Champions, whom some had canonized to be the Wonders of the world for martiall discipline and knightly adventures: finding a fit opportunitie as hee walked in their companies vpon an evening, vnder an arbour of vine branches, he revealed to them the secretes of his soule, and the cause of his so sad and solitarie dwelling. So standing bareheaded in the middle of the Champions, with his white haire hanging downe to his shoulders in colour like to the siluer swanne, and more softer than the downe of thistles, or Median like untwisted, he began with a sober countenance and gallant demeanour to speake as followeth vnto them, that setled them attentively to heare.

I am sure (quoth he) you invincible Knights, that see continually at my solitarie course of living, and that you greatly muse wherefore I exempt my selfe from the companies of all worldlings, except my seven Sonnes, whose sights be my chiefest comfort, and the onely prolongers of my life. Wherefore prepare your eares to entertaine the strangest Discourse that ever tongue pronounced, or euer wearied aged man in the height of his extremities delivered.

I was in my former yeres (whilst Fortune smiled vpon my happines) the principall Commaunder and chiefe Owner of a certaine Fontaine, of such a wonderfull & precious vertue, that it was valued to be worth the Kingdomes of Iudea: the water thereof was so strange in operation, that in foure and twentie houlders it would convert any metall, as of brasse, copper, yron, lead or tinne, into rich refined golde: the stone that it would turne into pure silver, and any kinde of earth into excellent metall.

of the seven Champions.

By the vertue thereof I haue made the leaues of Trees moze richer than Indian Pearle, and the blades of grasse of moze value than the Jewels that be found in the countrey of America.

The richnesse therooft was no sooner bnted through the world, but it caused many foraine Knights to trie the aduenture, and by force of armes to bereaue me of the honoz of this Fountaine. But at that time Nature graced me with one and twentie Sonnes, whereof seven be yet liuing, and the onely comfort of myne age: but the other fourteene (whom frowning Fortune hath bereaued me of) manie a day by their valiant prowesse and matchles fortitudes defended the Fountaine from manie furious assaillers: for there was no knight in all the world that was found so hardie noz of such inuincible courage, that if they once attempted to incounter with anie of my valiaunt Sonnes, but they were either taken prisoners, or slaine in the combat.

The fame of their valors, and the riches of the Fountaine rung through manie strange Countreyes, and lastly came to the eares of a furious Giant, dwelling vpon the Borders of Arabia: who at the report thereof came armed in his steele coate with a mightie bat of yron on his necke, like to the furious Hercules that burst the brazen gates of Cerberus in twaine, and in state and bignes like the Sonne of Ioue that boze the mightie mountaine Atlas vpon his shoulders: he was the conquerour of my sonnes, and the first causer of my sodaine downfall. But when I had intelligence of the ouerthrow of fourteen of my sons, and that he had made conquest of the wealthie fountaine, I with the rest of my Children, thinking all hope of reuerie to be past, betooke our selues to this solitarie course of life, where euer since in this mansion or hermitage we haue made our abode and residence, spending our wealth to the releefe of trauelling Knights and wandering Pilgrimes, hoping once againe that smiling Fortune would

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aduance vs to some better happer: and to bee plaine right worthy Champions my hope was neuer at the height of full perfection till this present time, wherein your excellent presences almost assure me that the hideous monster shalbe conquered, my fountaine restored, my Sounes deaths (for dead sure they are) reuenged.

The Champions with great admiration gaue eare to the strange discourse of this reuerent Jew, and intended in requitall of his extraordinary kindnesse to vndertake this aduenture. And the more to encourage the other, Saint George began in this manner to deliuer his mind, speaking both to the Jew their host, and his valiant fellow Champions.

I haue not without great wonder (most reuerent and curteous olde man) heard the strange discourse of thy admirable fountaine, and doe not a little lament that one of so kinde & liberall a disposition should be dispossessed of so exceeding riches, for that wealth to a liberal nature is a loue conuenient: neither am I lesse sorry, that so inhumane a monster and knowen enemy to all curtesie and kinde should haue the fruition of so exceeding great Treasure: for to the wicked, wealth is the cause of their more wickednes. But that which most grieueth me, is: that hauing so many valiant knights to thy Donnes, they all were so vnfortunate to fall into the handes of that relentless Monster. But be comforted kinde olde man, for I haue hope by the power of heauen we were directed hither to punish that hateful Giant, reuenge the iniuries offered to thine age, satisfie with his death the death of thy children if they be dead, and restore to thy bounteous possession that admirable rich fountaine.

And now to you my valiant Companions I speake, that with mee through many dangers haue aduentured: let vs courageously attempt this rare aduenture, wherein such honoz to our names, such happines to our friends, such glory to God consistes, in recovering right to the wronged.

of the seven Champions.

ed, and punishing rightfully the wrongers of the righteous. And that there be no contention among vs who shall begin this aduenture, for that I knowe all of you thirstie after honoz, let lots bee made, and to whome soeuer the chiefe lot falleth, let him be sojournest in assailing the Giant, and God and all good fortune be our guides.

He exceeding ioy which the old Jew contained, at the speeches of Saint George, had nere hande bereft him of the vse of sense, so aboue measure was he ouerioyed. But at length recovering vse of speech, he thus thankfully brake forth.

How infinitely I finde my selfe bounde vnto you, you famous and vndoubted Christian Champions, all my ableness is not able to expresse: onely thankfulness from the exchequer of a true heart shall to you bee rendyed.

The Champions without moze words disrobing themselves from their Pilgrims attyre, euery one selected forth an arme, sitting to their postely bodies, and in stead of their Chane stauess tipped with siluer, they welded in their handes the steelen blades, and their scute that had wont to endure a painefull pilgrimage vpon the bare ground, were now redressed to mount the golden stirrop, but as I said, they purposed not generally to assaile the Giant, but singly euerie one to trie his owne fortune thereby to obtaine the greater honoz, and their deeds to meritt the higher fame, therfore the lots being cast amongst themselves which of them should beginne the aduenture. The lot fell first to Saint Denis the Noble Champion of France, who greatly reioyced at his fortune, and so departed for that night to get things in readines, but the next morning no sooner had the golden Sunne displaide his beuty in the East, but Saint Denis arose from his sluggish bed, and attyred himselfe in costly armor, and mounted vpon a steede of yrone gray with a spangled Plumbe of purple feathers on his burgonet, spangled with starres of golde, resembling the azure firmament beautified with starres.

After

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After he had taken leaue of the other Champions, and had demaunded of the Jew where the Giant had his residence, he departed forward on his journey: and before the Sonne had mounted to the top of heauen, he approached to the Giants presence, which as then satte vpon a block of Steele directly before the golden fountaine, satisfying his hunger with raw flesh, and quenching his thirst with the iuyces of ripe grapes.

The first sight of his ugly and deformed proportion almost daunted the valor of the French Champion, so as he stood in a maze, whether it were better to trie the adventure, or to returne with dishonor backe to his other fellow Knights. But hauing a heart furnished with true magnanimitie, he chose rather to dye in the encounter, than to returne with infamie: so committing his trust to the vncertaine Quene of chance, he spurred forth his horse, and assailed the Giant so furiously, that the strokes of his sword sounded lyke weightie blowes hammered vpon an anuyle.

But so small he regarded the Giant the puissant force of this single knight, that he would scarce rise from the place where he satte: but yet remembring a vision that a little before appeared vnto him in his sleepe, which revealed vnto him, how that a knight should come from the North-erne clowdes of the earth, which should alone end the adventure of the fountaine, and banquet him by solitude: therefore not minding to be taken at advantage, he suddenly started vp, and with a groyn and furious countenance he ran vpon saint Denis, and took him by the horse, armour, furniture and all vnder his left arme, as lightly as a strong man would take a sucking infant from his cradle, and bore him to a hollow rocke of stone, bound about with barres of yron, standing nere vnto the fountayne, in a valley betwixt two mightie mountaines. In which prison he closed the French Champion, amongst fourteen other knights, that were at somes to the curious Jew

the seven Champions.

as you heard before discoursed, and being proud of this attempt he returned backe to his blocke of Steele, where we left leane him sitting, glorying in his own conceite, and speake of the other champions remaining in the Jewes house, expecting the French knightes fortunate returne: but when the sable Curtaines of darknes were drawne before the chistall windowes of the day, and night had taken possession of the elements, and no newes was heard of the Champions successe, they iudged presently that either hee was slaine in the adventure, or discomfited and taken prisoner.

Therefore they cast lots againe which of them, the next morning should trye his fortune, and revenge the French knightes quarrel, but the lot fel to Saint James the Noble champion of Spaine, whereat his Princelie heart more reioysed, then if he had bene made King of the Westerne World.

So upon the next morning by the breake of day, he attyred himselfe in rich and costly armor like the other Champion, and mounted vpon a Spanish Ginnect, in pace more swifter then the winde, and in partly state like to Bucephalus the proud steede of Macedonian Alexander: his caparison was in color like to the waues of the Sea, his Burgonet was beautified with a spangled plume of sable feathers: and vpon his brest hee bore the armes of Spaine.

Thus in this gallant manner departed he from the Jewes habitation, leauing the other Champions at their deuine contemplations for his happy successe, but his fortune chanced contrarie to his wishes, for at the Giants first encounter he was likewise born to the rock of stone, to accompany Saint Denis.

This Giant was the strongest and hardiest knight at armes that euer set foote vpon the confines of Damasco, his strength inestimable, that at one time hee burst through with a hundred knights: but now returns we

againe

The second Part of

against the other champions, whom when night approached, and likewise missing the company of Baynt James they cast lots the third time, and it fell to the Noble champion of Italy Saint Anthony, whom on the next morning attyred himselfe in costly habilliments of war, and mounted upon a Barbarian palfrey as richly as did the valiant Iason when he adventured into the Rie of Colcas, for the golden fleece: and for Medea's love, his Helmet glittered like an yfe mountaine, deckt with a plume of ginger coloured feathers, and beautified with many silver pendants. But his shining glory was soon blemished with a cloude of mischance, although hee was as valiant a knight as ever brandisht weapn in the fields of Mars, yet hee founde a vniuersall in his fortitude, to withstand the furious blowes of the Giant, that hee was forced to yeeld himselfe prisoner like the former Champions.

The next lot that was cast, chanced to Saint Andrew of Scotland, a knight as highly honoured for martiall discipline as any of the rest, his hewe was of the breede of the Flemish squares, clad with a caparison after the manner of the Grecians, his Armes barbed with greene oyles, like the colo, of the Roman fields, upon his brest he bore a crooke of purple like, and on his bargeonet a plumb of greene feathers: but yet fortune so frowned upon his enterprize, that he nothing preuailed, but committed his life to the mercy of the Giant, who likewise imprisoned him with the other knights.

The last lot fell to Saint Patrick of Ireland, as brave a knight as ever nature created, and as adventurous in his atcheyments: Heer Hector with the Argian fleede praunt it by and bowne the Armes of Troy, and with that age admitts his fortitude this Irish knight might counter-baile his valour, for no sooner had the Giant spawne to take the share of his torment, and had committed her charge to the god

the seven Champions.

best harnisht soune: But Saint Patrick approached
the sight of the Giant, mounted upon his Irish hobby,
clad in a cosset of proofe, beautified with finer
mayles: his plumes of feathers, was of the color of Vir-
gins hayre, his horse courred with a hals of Diogenes tal-
ing stiles, and his saddle bound about with plates of
sterle, like to an Iron chayne.

The sight of this valliant Champion so daunted the
courage of the Giant, that hee thought him to bee the
knight that the vision had revealed, by whome the ad-
venture shoulde bee accomplished: therefore with un-
commonly fortitude hee assailed the Irish knight, who
with as princely valor endured the encounter: but the
unkinde destinies not intending to give him the honor of
the victory, compelled the Champion to yield to the
Giant's forces, and like a Captive to accompany the other
imprisoned Champions.

The next lot fell to Saint David of Wales, who
nothing discouraged at the discomfiture of the other
Christian knightes, but at the morning sunne arose
into the azure armament, glittered in his silver armor
before the fountaine, with a golden Griffon turning on
his back, where he endured long & dangerous combats
with the Giant, making the skyes to resound with echoes
of their rookes, but at last when the Giant percei-
ued that Saint David beganne to grow almost breath-
lesse, in defending the huge and mightie blowes of his
steel batte, and chiefly through the long encounter,
the Giant renewed his strength, and so redoubled his
rookes that Saint David was constrained like the
other Christian Champions to yield to the Giants
mercies.

But now the invincible and heroncall Champrion
of England Saint George, hee that is famous true
knight, the mappe of Honour, and the worlds wonder,
remayning

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venturing in the Jewes pavilion, and poynding at his
 minde of the bad success of the nye Champions, and that
 it was his turne to try his fortune the next morning in the
 adventure: he fell upon his knees and made this humble
 supplication to the speciallty of God: O thou creator of
 this worldely Glorie (quoth he,) O thou that hast fought for
 thy christian Knights in fields of purple blood, and made
 the enemies of heauen to swim in streams of crimson
 gore, O thou that hast given mee skill the victory, graunt
 that I may overcome this bloody and brutish monster,
 that hath dishonoured thy of the best knights that
 ever nature framed, euen as thou wast my ayde when I
 slew the burning Dragon in Egypt: and when I con-
 quered the terrible Giant that kept the enchanted Castle
 amongst the Amazonians, euen so let me accomplish this
 dangerous adventure, that all christians and christian
 Knights may applaude thy name, and in thy defence and
 full quarrell, may all be honored with the golden pledge
 of Kinghood.

In this manner went hee away the night in making
 his humble petitions to heauen, for the happy successe of the
 next dayes enterprise, whereon he was rewarded by the bond of
 his golden Charter, either to returne a worthy conqueror,
 or to dye a valiant Martyr. And when the day began to
 beautifie the Castles Elements with a purple color, he
 repaired to the Jewes armory, and clad himselfe in a
 blacke Coylet, and mounted upon a pitchy coloured
 horse, adorned with a blood-red caparison, in signe of a
 bloody and tragickall adventure, his plume of feathers
 was like a flame of fire quencht in blood as a token of
 speedy revenge, hee armed himselfe not with a sturdy
 lance, bounde about with plates of brasse, but took a
 javelin made of steel, the one end far more sharper then
 the point of a needle, the other end a ball of iron in fash-
 ion of a mace of a club.

the seven Champions.

Being thus armed according to his wished desires, hee tooke leave of the Jew and his seaven Donnes, who sate attyred in blacks and mournfull ornaments, praying for his happie and fortunate successe: and so departed speedily to the golden fountaine, where hee found the Giant sleeping carelesly upon his blocke of Steele, dreading no insuing dangers.

But when the valiant Champion Saint George was alighted from his horse, and had sufficiently beheld the deformed proportion of the Giant: how the hair of his head stood staring & pright like to the bristles of a wilde Boare, his eyes gazing open like two blazing Comets, his teeth long and sharpe like to spikes of Steele, the nayles of his hands like the tallants of an Eagle, yet over them was drawn a paire of yron gloves: and euerie other limme huge and strongly proportioned like to the bodie of some mightie Drake, the worthy Champion awakened him in this order.

Arise (sayd he) thou unreasonable deformed Monster, and either make deliuerie of the captiue Knights, whom thou wrongfully detainest, or prepare thy vgly selfe to abide the uttermost force of my warlike armie and death-prepared weapon.

At which words the furious Giant started vp, as one suddenly amazed or affrighted from his sleepe: and without making anie reply at all, taking his yron Mace fast in both his hands, he did with great terror let dyue at the most worthy English Champion, who with exceeding cunning nimblenes defended himselfe from certaine danger by speedie auoyding the blowes violence, and withall returned on his aduersarie a mightie thrust with the pointed or sharpe ends of his Javelin, which rebounded from the Giants bodie, as if it had been runne against an adamantine pillar.

At which the inuincible Saint George perceiuing, he turned the heauie round ball end of his masse Iaveline,

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and so mightely assailed the Giant, redoubling his blows with such courageous fortitude, that at last he beate his braines out of his deformed head: whereby the Giant was constrained to yield to his ghost, and to giue such a hideous roare, as though the whole frame of the Earth had been shaken with the violence of some storme of thunder.

This being done, Saint George cast his loathsome carcase as a pray for the fowles and ravenous beastes to feare vpon: and after verie diligently searched vp and downe, till he found the Rocks wherein all the Knights and Champions were imprisoned: the which with hys sharpe Iavelin he burst in sunder, and deliuered them presently from their seruitudes, and after returned most triumphantly backe to the Jewes Banillion, in as great maiestie and colatlie as Valpagan with his Romane Nobles and Peeres returned into the confines of flourishing Italy, from the admired and glorious conquest of Ierusalem and Iudea.

But when the reuerend olde Jew sawe the English champion returned with victorie, together with his other five fellow champions, and like wise beheld hys scurvy Sonne safely deliuered, his ioy so mightely exceeded the bounds of reason, that he sodainly swounded, and lay for a time in a dead trance, with the exceedingnes of pleasure he conceiued.

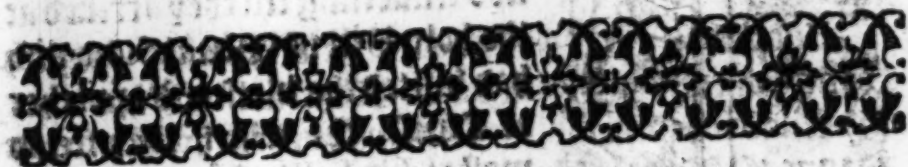
But hauing a little reconered his decayed senses, hee gladly conducted them into their senerall Lodgings, and there they were presently harned, and their woundes washed in white wine and new milke, and after banqueted them in the best manner hee could deuise. At which Banquet there wanted not all the excellencie of musique that the Jewes canen yonger Sonnes could deuise, extolling in their sweet Sonnets the excellent fortitude of the English champion, that had not onely deliuered their captiued Bretheren, but restored by that vally Giants de-
serued

the seven Champions.

ferued death their aged Father to the repossellion of his golden Fountaine.

Thus after Saint George with the other six Champions had sojourned there for the space of thirtie dayes, hauing placed the Jew with his Sonnes in their former desired dignities, that is in the gouernment of the Golden Fountaine, they cloathed themselves againe in theyr pilgrimes attyre, and so departed forward on theyr intended Journey to visite the holy Sepulcher of our Saviour Christ.

Of whose noble Adventures you shall heare more in the Chapter following.



CHAP.

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CHAP. V.

Of the Champions returne from Ierusalem from the Sepulcher of Christ, and after how they were almost famished in a wood: and and how saint George obtained them food by his valour in a Giants House with other things that happened.



The Champions after this neuer rested travelling till they arrived at the holy Hill of Mount Sion, and had visited the blessed Sepulcher of Christ, the which they found most richly built of the purest marble, garnished curiously by cunning Architecturie, with many carbuncles of Jasper, and pillars of Iate. The Temple wherein it was erected, had seven degrees of Staires within the ground, the gates whereof were of burnisht golde, and the portalles of refined silver, cut as it dyd seme cut of a most excellent nature beautified Alabaster Roche.

As it continually burned a sweet smelling Taper, always maintained by the holie of the choicest Virgins dwelling in all Iudea, attending still upon that blessed Sepulcher, clad in liken ornaments in colour like the Lillies in the flourishing pride of Summer: the which costly

the seven Champions.

costly attire, they continually weare, as an euident signe of their vnspotted virginities: many daies offered by these worthy Champions these ceremonious deuotions, to the sacred Tombe of Christ, washing the marble pauement with their vnsained teares, and witnessing their true and heartie zeales, with their continual vollyes of discharged sighes.

But at last vppon an Euening, when Titans golden beames began to descend the Westerne Elements, as those Princely minded Champions in companie of those twelue admyzed Maidens, kneeled befoze the Sepulcher offering vp their Euening Prayers. an vnseene voyce (to the amazement of them all) from a hollow vault in the Temple uttered these words.

You magnanimous Knights of Christendome, where true nobilities hath circled the earth vpon the wings of fame, whose bare feete for the loue of our sweet Saviour, hath set more wearie steps vpon the parched earth, then there be stars within the golden Cannopy of heauen: returne, returne into the bloodie fields of warre, and spend not the honour of your times in this ceremonious maner: for great things by you must bee accomplished, such as in time to come shall fill large Chronicles, and cause babes as yet vnborne to speak of your honorable atchieuements.

And you chaste Maidens that spend your lines in seruice of your God, even by the plighted promise you haue made to true Virginitie, I charge you to furnish forth these warlike Champions with such approoued furniture as hath bene offered to this blessed Sepulcher, by those travelling Knights, which haue fought vnder the Banner of Christ. This is the pleasure of the Heauens great Souerayn, and this for the redresse of wronged Innocents in earth must be with all immediate dispatch forthwith accomplished.

This vnexpected voyce had no sooner ended, but the

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Temo

The second Part of

Temple (in their conceites) seemed full strangely fore-
sound like the melodie of celestial Angels, or the holy har-
mony of the heauenly Rubens, as a signe that the Gods
were pleased at their proceedings: then the twelve
Virgins arose from their diuine contemplations, and con-
ducted the seauen Champions to the farther side of mount
Syon, and there bestowed franklie vppon them, seauen of
the byassest Steeds that euer they beheld, with partiall
furniture answerable therunto, besittng knights of such
esteepe: then the christian Champions beeing proude of
their good fortunes, attyzed them selues in rich and sump-
tuous cosselets, and after mounted vppon their warlike
coursers, kindly bidding the Ladies adieu: they betooke
them to the worlds wide journey. This trauell began at
that time of the yeare, when the Sommer quene began
to spread her beauteous mantles amongst the greene and
fresh boughes of the hye and mightie Cedars, when as all
kinde of small birds flew round about, retreating them-
selues in the beautie of the day, and with their well tuned
notes, making a swete and heauenlye melodey: at that
time I say, these mightie and well esteemed knights the
seauen Champions of Christendome, toke the way from
Jerusalem, which they thought to be most vsed: in which
they had not many daies travelled through the deserts and
cutter make a mountaine top, but they were mervailously
troubled for lacke of their accustomed and daily victuals,
and could not hide nor dissemble their great hunger, so
that the watre which they sustayned with hunger, was
farre greater then the battels that they had fought against
the enemies of Christ, as you heard discoursed in the first
part of this Discorde.

So vpon a Sommers evening, when they had spent
the day in great extremitie, and night grew on, being
in a thicket of mightye trees, where as the silver Moone
with her bright beames glistred most clerly, yet to them
it seemed to bee as darke as pitch, for they were very sore
troubled.

the ſeuē Champions.

troubled for lacke of that which ſhoulde ſustaine them : and their faces did ſhewe and declare the perplexities of their ſtomackes.

So they ſate them downe vpon the greene and ſe the hearches, very penſiue of their extreame neceſſitie, procuring to take their reſts that night : but all was in vayne, for that their tozporall neceſſities would not conſent therunto : but without ſleeping they walked vp and downe for that night, till the next day in the morning that they turned to their accuſtomed trauell and iourney, thinking to finde ſome food for the cheriſhing of their ſtomackes, and had their eyes alwayes gazing about, to eſpye ſome Village or houſe, wherein they might ſatiſſye their hunger and take their reſtes.

Thus in this helpleſſe manner ſpent they away the next day, till the cloſing in of the euening's light, by which time they grew ſo faint, that they fell to the ground with feebleneſſe : Oh what a ſorrowe was it to Saint George, not only for him ſelfe, but to ſee the reſt of the Champions in ſuch a miſerable caſe, beeing not able to helpe themſelues, and ſo parting a little from them, he lamented in this manner following.

Thou God of Iudea : in whoſe handes both life and death remaines, and at whoſe frowns the lowe foundation of the faſtened will tremble and quake : the outrageous ſeas ſwell and riſe aboue their boundes, the woods and wildernes roze with tempeſtious gules, and the fruitfull earth growe barren . Oh pittie mee thou moſt gracious God : thou mightieſt amongſt the powers of heauen : thou that haſt giuen me ſo many victories : thou that haſt made me conqueror of Kinges and kingdomes : and thou by whoſe inuiſible power I haue tamed the blacke-ſaffe ſurpes of darke Cocytus that maſate abroad the woꝛlde in humane ſhapes : looke downe I ſay from thy Imperiall ſeate, euen by my Pilgrimage vnto thy ſacred ſpyne : ſhowe mee ſome ſouor, and doe not

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consent that I and my companie perish for hunger & want of victuals: make no delay to remedie our great necessitie: let vs not be meat for birds howering in the aire, nor our bodies cast as a pray for rauenous beastes ranging in these woods: but rather if we must needs perish, let vs be by the hands of the strongest warriors in the vniuersal world, and not basely to lose our liues with cowardlye hunger.

These and such like reasons vttered this valiaunt Champion of England, till such time as the day appeared and the sable curtaines of coale blacke night were withdrawn. Then returned he to the rest of his Companie, where he found them verie weak and feeble: but he encouraged them in the best manner he could deuise to take their horses, and to trie the chaunce of their vtmost vnhinde fortune.

Although Saint George as they trauelled was readie to dye by the way, and in great confusion of minde: yet rode he first to one then to another, comforting them, and making them ride apace: which they might verie well doe, for that their horses were not so vnprovidid as they: Pastors, by reason of the goodly grasse that grew in those woods, wherewith at pleasure they filled themselves euerie night.

The golden Sunne had almost mounted to the top of heauen, and the glorious prime of the daye began to approach, when they came into a great field verie plaine, and in the midst of it was a little Mountaine, out of the which there appeared a great smoke which gaue them to vnderstand that there should be some habitation in that place.

Then the Princely minded Saint George said to the other Champions: Take comfort with your selues, and by little and little come forward with an easie pace: for I will ride before to see who shall be our host this ensuing night. And of this byane Knights and Companions, be all
all

the seven Champions.

he all assured, whether hee be please or no, yett shall hee
 giue vs lodging and entertayne vs like to trauellling
 knights, and there withall he set spurres to his horse, and
 swiftly scowzed away like to a ship with swelling sailes
 vpon the marble coloured Ocean: his hast was so speedy
 that in a short time he approached the mountaine, where
 at the furie & rushing of his horse in running, there arose
 from the ground a mightie and terrible Giant, of so great
 height, that he seemed to bee a bigge growne tree, and for
 hugenes like to a rocke of stone: but when he cast his sta-
 ring eyes vpon the English knight: which seemed like
 two brazen plates or two torches euer flaming, he layde
 hand vpon a mightie club of Iron which lay by him, and
 came with great lightnesse to meete Saint George, but
 when he approached his presence, he thought him to bee a
 knight but of small balloz and fortitude, he thze w a way
 his Iron bat, and came toward the champion, intending
 with his fistes and buffets to beat out his bzaines, but the
 courage of the English champion so exceeded, that he for-
 got the extremity of hunger, for like a couragious knight
 he raised himselfe in his stirrops, otherwise hee coulde not
 reach his head, and gaue him such a blowe vpon the fore-
 head with his keene edged sauchion, that he cut his head
 halfe in sunder, and his bzaines in great aboundance ran
 downe his deformed bodie: In that amazed hee fell to the
 ground and presently dyed. His fall seemed to make the
 ground to shake, as though a stony tower had bene ouer-
 turned, so as he lay vpon the earth he seemed to be a great
 oake blowne by by the rootes with a tempestuous whirle-
 winde.

At that instant the rest of the champions came to that
 place, with as much ioy at that present, as before they
 were sad and sorrowfull.

But when Saint Denis with the other knights, did see
 the greatnes of the Giant, and the deformity of his body,
 they advanced his valoz beyond imagination, and hee

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med him the fortunatest Champion that euer nature framed, holding that adventure in as high honour, as the Grecians held Iasons prize when he turned from Colchos with Medeas golden fleece: and with as great daunger accomplished as the twelve fearfull labours of Hercules: but after some few speeches passed, Saint George desired the rest of the Champions to goe and see what stoe of victualls the Giant had prepared for them.

Upon this they concluded, and so generally entred the Giants house, which was in the manner of a great Barne cut out of the hard stone, and wrought out of the Roche: therein they found a mightie copper Chaldron standing vpon a treasert of Steele, the feet and supporters thereof, were as bigge as great Iron pillars: vnder the same burned such a huge flaming fire, that it sparkled like the fire Furnace in burning Acharon:

Within the Chaldron were boiling the fleshe of two fatte Bullockes, prepared onely for the Giants dinner: the sight of this ensuing banquet gaue them such comfort, that eueryone fell to worke, hoping for their trauel to eat parte of the meate: one turned the valse in the Chaldron, another increased the fire, and some pulled out the coales, so that there was not anye idle in hope of the benefite to come.

The hunger they had, and their desire to eate, caused them to fall to their meate before it was halfe readye as though that it had bene ouer sodden, but the two knights of Wales and Ireland, not intending to dine without bread and drinke, searched in a secret holloincane, wher as they found two great loanes of bread, as bigge in compass as the circle of a well, and two great flagons full of the best Beere that euer they tasted, the which with great ioye and pleasure, they brought from the cave, to the great and exceeding contentment of the other Champions.

In steed of a knife to cut their viuals, Saint George
blew

the seven Champions.

And his Circulare which lately had bene stayned with the hateful Giants detested blow, and that had bene imbrued with his loathsome byrnes.

Thus and after this manner qualified they the pinching paines and toyments of hunger, whereof they tooke as ioyfull a repast as if they had banqueted in the richest Kings Pallace in the world.

So giving thanks to heaven for their good and happy fortunes, Saint George requested the Champions to take horse, and mounted himselfe upon his palfrey, and so travelled from thence thowoe a narrowe path, which seemed to be used by the Giant: and so with great diligence they travelled all the rest of that day, till night had closed in the beautye of the heavens: at which time they had got to the top of a high mountaine, from whence a little before night they did discover many a plous great and playnes, the which were inhabited with sayre Cities and townes, at which sight these Christian Champions received great contentment and ioy, and so without any stayning, they made hast on wards on their iorney till such time as they came to a lowe valley lying betwixt two running rivers: where in the midst of the way they found an Image of fine Crisfall, the picture & lively forme of a beautiful Virgin, which seemed to be wrought by the hands of some moste excellent worke-man, all to be spotted with blood.

And it appeared by the woundes that were cunningly formed in the same picture, that it was the image of some Lady that had suffered toyments, as well with terrible cuttings of yrons, as with cruel whippings: the Ladies legs and armes did seme as though they had bene martyred and wrunged with cords: and about the necke, as though shee had bene forceably strangled with a napkin or towel: the crisfall picture lay upon a rich adorned bed of blacke cloathes under an arbor of purple Roses: by the curious faire formed Image, sat a goodly aged man in a chaire

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chaire of cypresse wood, his attire was after the manner of the Arcadian sheap-heads not curious but comely, yet of a blacke and sable colour, as a sure signe of some deadly discontent, his hayze hung downe belowe his shoulders, like untwisted sike, in whitenes like downe of thistles, his beard ouer growne dangling downe, as it were frozen Ickles vpon a hauthorne tree, his face wrinkled and overworn with age and his eyes almost blind in bewaiging the griefes and sorowes of his heart.

Which strange and woofull spectacle, when the christi-
an championous vigilantly behelde, they coulde not by any
manner of means refraine from shedding some sorow-
full teares, in seeing befoze them that a woman of suche
excellent beautie should be oppressed with cruelty. But the
pittifull English knight had the greatest compassion,
when he behelde the counterfeite of this tormented crea-
ture, who taking truce with his sorowfull heart, he cur-
tiously desired the olde Father, sitting by this specta-
cle, the cause of his sorow, and the true discourse of that
maidens passed fortunes: for whose sake hee seemed to
spend his daies in that solitary order, to whome the olde
man with a number of sighes thus kindly replied, bzaue
knightes, for so you seme by your curtesies and behavi-
ours, to tell the storie of my bitter woes, and the cause
of my endles sorowes, will constrain a spring of teares
to trickle from the Conduits of my aged eyes, and make
the mansion of my heart to rine in twaine, in remem-
bring of my undeserued miseries: as many drops of bloud
hath fallen from my heart as there be siluer haire upon
my head, and as many sighes haue I strained from my
brest as there be minutes in a yeere, for thyece seven hun-
dred times the mornings dew hath wet my siluer hayzes,
and thyece seven hundred times the winters frosts hath
nipt the mountaine tops since first I made these rufal la-
mentations, during all which time I haue set befoze this
chrystall Image, bowlerly praying that some courteous
knight

the seven Champions.

Knight would be so kinde, as to ayde me in my bowed reuenge, and now fortune I see hath smild vpon me, in sending you hether to work a iust cenerge for the inhumane murder of my daughter, whose perfect Image lyeth here carued in fine Chyastall, as the continuall obiecte of my griefer: and because you shall vnderstand the true discourse of her timeles Tragicke, I haue writte that downe in a paper booke with mine owne blood, the which my saint, full tongue is not able to reueale, and thereupon hee pulsed from his bosome a golden couered booke with silver claspes, and requested Saint George to read it to the rest of the knights, to which he willingly condescended, so sitting downe amongst the other Champions vpon the greene springing grasse, hee opened the bloudy written booke and read ouer the contents, which contained these sorrowfull wordes following.



The second Part of



CHAP. VI.

What hapned to the Champions, after they had found an Image of fine Cristall, in the forme of a murdered Mayden: where Saint George had a golden Booke given him, wherein was written in blood, the true Tragedies of two Sisters: and likewise how the Champions intended a speedy reuenge vpon the Knight of the blacke Castle, for the deaths of the two Ladies.



In former times, whilst Fortune smiled vpon me, I was a welthye Shepheare, dwelling in this vn-happye Countrey, not onely held in great estimation for my welth, but also for two faire Daughters which nature had made most excellent in beautie: in whome I tooke such exceeding ioy & delight, that I accounted them my chiefest happinesse: but yet in the end, that which I thought should most content me, was the occasion of this my endless sorowes.

My two Daughters (as I said before) were endued with wonderfull beauty, and accompanied with no lesse honestie:

the ſeuē Champions.

Honestie: the fame of whose virtues was so blazed into many partes of the worlde: by reason whereof, there repaired to my Shepheards Cottage, diuers strange and worthy knights, with greates desire to marrie with my Daughters. But aboue them all, there was one named Leoger, the knight of the blacke Castle (wherein he now remaineth) being in distance from this place some two hundred leagues, in an Island encompassed with the sea.

This Leoger I say, being so entrapped with the beauty of my Daughters, that he desired me to giue him one of them in marriage: but a little mistrusting his treason and crueltie that after followed, but rather considering the greates honoz that might redounde there of, for that he was a worthy knight and of much fortitude: I quickly fulfilled his desire, and granted to him my eldest Daughter in marriage: where after that Hymens holy rites were solemnized in great pomp and state she was conuoyed in company of her now wedded Lord, to the blacke Castle, more like a Princeſse in estate then a Shepheards daughter of such degree.

But yet still I retained in my company the youngest, being of farre more beautie then her elder Sister: of which, this trayterous and unnatural knight was informed, and her surpassing beauty so extolled, that in a small time he forgot his new married wife, and sweet companion, and wholly surrendered himselfe to her loue, without consideration that he had married her other sister. So this disordinate and lustful loue, kindled and increased in him euery day more and more, and hee was so troubled with this new desire, that he dayly deuised with himselfe by what meanes he might obtaine her, and keepe her in despite of all the World: in the end he vſed this policie and deceit to get her home into his Castle, for when the time grew on that my eldest daughter his wife, should bee deliuered, hee came in great pompe with a stately traine of followers to my cottage, and certified me that his wife

The second Part of

was belivered of a goodly boy, and thereupon requested me with very faire and loving wordes, that I woulde let my daughter goe vnto her sister, to giue her that contentment which she desired, for shee did loue her more dearer then her owne soule: Thus his craftie and subtil perswasions so much preuailed, that I coulde not frame any excuse to the contrarie, but muste needes consent to his demand, so straight way when hee had in his power, that which his soule so much desired, hee presently departed, giuing me to vnderstand that hee would carry her to his wife, for whose sight she had so much desired, and at whose coming she would receiue great ioy and contentment, her sodaine departure bred such sorrow in my heart (being the onely comfort and stay of my decayed age) that the fountaines of my eyes rained downe a sheeter of salt teares vpon my aged breast, so deare is the loue of a father vnto his child: but to be short, when this lustfull minded catiffe with his pompious traine came in sight of his Castle, he commaunded his companie to ride forwarde that with my daughter hee might secretly conferre of serious matters, and so staid lingering behinde, till hee sawe his company almost out of sight, and they two alone together, he found oportunitie to accomplish his lustfull desires, and so rode into a little grove, which was hard at hande, close by a riuers side, where without any more tarrying he carried her into the thickest part thereof, where he thought it most conuenient to performe so wicked a deede.

When he behelde the branches of the thicke trees to withhold the light of heauen from them, and that it seemed a place ouerspread with the sable mantles of night, he alighted from his horse, and willed my welbeloued daughter that shee should likewise alight: shee in whose heart rained no kinde of suspicion, presently alighted, and sate her downe by the riuers side, and washed her faire white handes in the streames, and refreshed her mouth with the christall waters.

Then

the seven Champions.

Then this dessembling Traitor coulde no longer re-
taine, but with a countenance like the lustfull King of
Thrace when hee intended the ranshment of Progne, or
like Tarquinius of Roome when he deflowered Lucrecia, he
let her vnderstand by some outward shewes, and darke
sentences the kindled fire of loue that burned in his hart:
and in the end he did wholly declare his deuillish pretence
and determined purpose.

So my louing daughter being troubled in minde with
his lustfull assailements, beganne in manner to repre-
hend him, will you (saide she) defile my sisters bedde, and
staine the honour of your house with lust: will you bereaue
me of that precious Jewell, the which I holde more dear-
er then my life, and blot my true Virginitie with your
false desires: brought you me from the comfortable sight
of my Father, to bee a toy vnto my Sister, and will you
dwell in the spoils of my true chastitie? looke, looke, mode-
rate lamight, (I will not call thee brother) looke I say how
the heauens doe blush at thy attempts, and see how chaste
Diana sits vpon the winged firmaments, and threatens
vengeance for her Virgins sake: make from thy heart
these lustfull thoughts with shewers of thy repentant
teares and sake not thus to wryong thy marriage bed, the
which thou oughtst not to violate for all the kingdomes in
the world.

Then this accursed Knight, seeing the chaste and vertu-
ous maiden, to stand so boldely in the defence of her Vir-
ginitie, with his rigorous hand hee tooke fast holde by her
neck, and with a wrathfull countenance hee deliuered
these wordes: do not think stubborn damsel to preserve thy
honour from the staine of my desires, for I sweare by the
chrystall Towers of Heauen, either to accomplish my in-
tent, or put thee vnto the cruellest death that euer was de-
uisd for anye damsell or maide: at which wordes, the
most sorrowfull and distressed Virgin, with a shewer
of pearled teares, trickling downe her shamefully blushing

2 The second Part of

chances, & play in this order. I thinke not false Tray-
lor (quoth she) that feare of death shall cause me to yeeld
to thy filthy desires: no, no, I will accompt that stroak
ten times happy, and more welcome to my soule, then the
toy of the clocke: then might I walke in the Elizian
fields amongst those daimes that dyed true virgins, and
floure to behold the blasse of my maydens glory, withered
with the nypping frostes of the vnnaturall desires.

These wordes being well inuerhoode by the lustfull
knight, who with a countenance more furious then the
savage Wyons in the Deserts of Libia, tooke her by the
slender waight, and rigorously bawlt her body against the
ground, and thence withall spake these wordes. Under-
stand I to be, and be well perswaded, thou vncienting
damsell, that either liuing or dead, I will performe my
will and pretended purpose: for in my hart there burnes
a fire that all the water in the Seas can neuer quench,
nor all the dropping clouds of heauen, if they should drop
eternal showres of raine: but it is the water of the sweet
Virginity that must quench my furious burning soule:
and thereupon in a madnes he cut off a great part of the
traîne of her golde, and bound it very fast to the hays
of her head, which glittered like to golden wyers, and
dragged her vp and downe the grone till the greene grasse
turned to a purple coloz, with the bloud that issued from
her body: by which crueltie he thought to inforce her to
hys pleasures, but the respecting not his wicked crueltie,
and the more he procured to torment her, the more car-
nestly she defended her honoz.

With this cruell and inhumaine monster, saw that
with her blattering speeches, nor his cruell threates
were of sufficiency to preuaile, hee beganne to forget all
faith and loyalty he ought vnto the honoz of knighthood,
and the respect he should beare vnto women kinde, but
blisphemed against heauen, and tearing her cloathes al
to peeces, hee stripped her starke naked, and with the

raynes

the seven Champions.

hannes of the houle of his horse, he cruelly whipped and scourged her white and tender haire, that it was full of blewes spotted, and horrible circles of blacke and settled blood, with such extreame crueltie that it was a very greivous and sorrowfull sight to behold. And yet this did profite him nothing at all, for she continued in her former resolution.

He seeing that she still perseuerd in the defence of her hono^r, he straight walcs like a bloody monster, heaped crueltie upon crueltie: then he tooke and bound her wel proportioned legs and christelike armes, greivously unto a withered tree (saying). Oh cruel and more cruel, then any woman in all the world hath euer bene: Why dost thou suffer thy selfe to bee thus tormented, and not give consent to procure my ease? Dost thou thinke it better to indure this murtherdome, then to live a moste loving, sweete and contented life: and therewithall his anger so increased that he stood staring on her face with his accursed eyes, fixed in such sort that he could not withdraw them backe.

¶ The which being perceived by this distressed Virgin, as one farre more desirous of death then of life, with a furious voyce she said: Oh thou traitor, thou wicked monster, thou utter enemy to all humankind, thou shamelesse creature, more cruell then the Lyons in the desertes of Herkania: thouaine of knight hood and the blondest wretch that ever nature framed in the worlde, wherein dost thou contemplate thus thy selfe? thou fleshy butcher, thou banterisall Wyger, thou lecherous hogge, and bwhonder of thy progenie: make an end (I say) of these my torments, for it is now too late to repent thee, gore my bospotted breast with thy bloody weapon, and send my soule into the bossome of Diana, whome I behold sitting in the celestall pallace of heaven, accompanied with numberles troops of beatal Virgins, ready to entertaine my blessing goad into her glorious mansion.

This

The second Part of

This unpitifull knight seeing the needfullnes that she had in the defence of her honor, with a cruell and infernall heart he tooke a silken scarf which the Damsell had girded at her waiste, and with a brutall anger doubled it about her necke, and pinched it so straight that her soule departed from her terrestriall body.

O you valiant Knights that by your Prowes comes to the reading of this dismal Tragiely, and comes to the hearing of these bloudy lines, contained in this golden booke: consider the great constancie and chastitie of this unfortunate maiden, and let the griefe thereof moue you to take vengeance of this crueltie shewed without any desert.

So when this infernall minded knight sawe that she was dead, he tooke his horse and rode after his company, and in a short time he over took them, and looked with so furious and ferefull a countenance, that there was none durst be so hardy to aske him where my daughter was, but one of his souldiers that bore me great affection for the kindnes and curtesie I offered to him at his Ladies and my daughters nuptials, having a suspicion by the great alteration that appeared in his aspect: and being very desirous to know what was become of the damsell, so that he came alone without bringing the Damsell with him, neyther could he haue any sight of her: he then presently withdrew himselfe backe, and followed the footings of the horse, hee ceased not untill hee came to the place where this crueltie was wrought, whereas he found the maiden dead, at the place whereof he

the seven Champions.

he remained almost beside himselfe, in such sorte that hee had almost fallen to the ground: The sorrowfull Squire remained a good while before he could speake, but at last when he came againe to himselfe, he began with a dolorous complaint, crying out against the gods and fortune, because they had suffered so great a crueltie to be committed vpon this damsell.

And making this sorrowfull lamentation, he vnloosed her from the tree, and layd her naked body vpon part of her apparell, the which hee found lying by, all besmeared in blood, and afterwarde complained in this pitifull sort.

A cruell Knight (quoth he) what an infernall hart remained in thy brest, or what hellish furie did beare thee company that thy haunts hath committed this inhumane sacrifice: was it not sufficient that this her surmounted beauty might haue moued thee to pittie, when it is of power to moue the bloody Camiball to remorse, and constrain the savage monsters to relent? so with these and other like sorrowfull words that the woofull Squire spake vnto the dead corpes; he cut downe branches from the trees, and gathered grasse from the ground so to couer the body, and left it lying so, that it seemed to be a mountaine of greene grasse, or a thicket of springing trees, and then determined with himselfe in the best manner that he could, to dissemble the knowledge of the bloody facts, hee tooke his horse and went the way towards the Castle, in which hee rode so fast that he ouertooke the knight and his companie at the entring of the gates, whereas the lustfull tyrant alighted, and without speaking to any person, he entred into his closet, by reason wherof, this kinde and courteous Squire had time to declare all things hee had scene to the new married Lady, and the dolorous end of the constant Damzell her sister. This suddaine and vnlooked for sorrowe mixed with anger and wrath, was such in the Lady that shee caused the Squire not to depart from

The second Part of

the Caffe, untill such time as more occasion served, and to keep all thinges in secret that he had seene, and she herselfe remayned, making merchaunts and great lamentations to her selfe all in secret, for that she would not be perceived, yet with a soft voyce she said,

Oh unfortunate Lady: borne in a sorrowfull howre, when some blazing and unluckie Comette rigned: oh unhappie Desdemones, that made me wife unto so cruell a knight, whose soule mis-deeds hath made the very Elements to blush, but yet I know that Fortune will not be so far unkinde, but that she will procure to take a strange reuenge vpon his purple-stayned soule: oh you immortall Gods, reuenge me on this wicked homicide: if not, I do sweare that I will with mine owne hands put in practice such an enterprize, and so staine my vnspotted heart with wilful murder, that all the Gods aboue and all the bright celestiall powers of heauen, shall looke from their immortall Palace and tremble at the terror of my hate.

This being said she took in her hand a Dagger of the knights, and in her armes her younge sonne: being but of the age of foure yeeres (saying) what do I with so much guilt vnto the world, that I will not leaue the soune of so wicked a father alive, but I will wash my hands in their accursed blood, if they were in number to King Priams children: and so in this irefull order entered she the chamber where the knight her husband was, and finding him tumbling vpon his bed from the one side to the other, without taking any rest, but in his furies venting and tearing the silken ornaments, with a sorrowfull weeping and terrible voyce she called him Traitor: and like a fierce Lionesse, with the Dagger that she brought in her hand, before his face she cut the throat of the innocent Babe, and throwe it to him on the bed, and there without faile take there (then cruel Traitor) the fruits that thy wicked seed created in my bodie, and then throwe she the Dagger after him in hope to haue killed him: but Fortune would not

the seven Champions.

not that it shoulde take effecte; for it strooke against the festerne of the bed, and rebounded backe vnto her handes, which when the Lady sawe that it nothing preyayled, she returned vppon her selfe her outrageous furie: so taking the bloody Dagger she thrust it to her heart, in such sorte, that it parted it into two peeces, and so she fell downe dead betwixt his armes; that was the occasion of all this bloody crueltie.

The great sorrow that this false and unhappy knight receiued was so strange, that he knewe not what counsell to take: but thinking vppon a seuerer vengeance that might succede these cruelles actes, he straight wayes procured that the body of the Lady, shoulde be secretly buried, which beeing doone by him selfe in the saddest time of the night, in a solitarie garden vnder his castle wall, where he heard a hollow voyce heaue from the depth of bowels of the earth; these manner of speeches following:

What for the bloody acte which he so lately had committed, his life by two meere to a shamefull end: and that his Castle with all his treasure therein, shoulde be destroyed or fall into the hands of him whose daughters he had so cruelly murdered.

After this, he determined to vse a secret policie: which was, to set watch and ward in euery passage nere vnto his Castle, and to arrest all such travellers, as by aduenture landed vpon that strand, not suffering them to passe vntill such time as they had promised him by oath to ayde and assist him euen vnto death, against all his enemies:

In the meane time the aforesaided Squire which had scene and heard all the tragicall dealings that hath bene here declared, in the best wise he could, returned againe vnto my cottage & tolde me all that you haue heard, which was vnto me very sorrowfull and heauy newes: indge here then gentle knights and ye beholders of this wofull tragedy, what sorrow I vnforsunate wretch sustained, and what anguish I receiued: so, at the hearing thereof, I fell into a

The second Part of

let stande, and being come againe unto my selfe, I all to be smear'd my milk white hayze in dust, that before were as cleare as the tryed siluer, and with my teares being the true signs of sorow, I bathed the bosome of my mother earth, and sighes pressed with such abundance from my tormented heart, that they staide the passage of my speech, and my tongue could not reueale the grife that my wofull thoughts conceined.

In this dumbe silence and sorow of minde I remained three daies and three nights, numbing my silent passions with the minutes of the day, and my mightie grifes, with the starres of heauen, when frostie bearded winter hath cladde the elements with twinkling Diamonds: but at last, when my amazed grifes were something abated, my eyes (almost blind with weeping) required some sleepe thereby to mitigate the sorowes of my heart: I made my repaies into a pleasant meadow adjoining neere unto my cottage, where amongst the green springing downes I purposed to take some rest, and to locke by the closets of my tearfull eyes with golden slumbers, thinking it to be the greatest content my sobbing heart required: But before I could settle my senses to a quiet sleepe, I was constrained to breath this wofull lamentation from my oppressed soule: O unhappie chance (quoth I) O cruell fortune: why dost thou not make me passe this bitter and sorowfull life in my childhood, or why did not the heauens permitte and suffer me to be strangled in my mothers wombe, or to haue perished in my cradle, or at my nurseries pap then had my heart neuer felt this sorow, my eares neuer heard the murder of my children, nor mine eyes neuer to haue wept so many helpelesse teares.

O you mountaines, you untamed beastes: O you deepe seas, you lustfull heauens, and you powers of reuengefull hell: come all I say and willinglie assist mee in this mortall tragadie, that these my aged handes
which

the French Champions.

which neuer yet punit any heinous crime, may now be
stainde in his accursed blood, that hath bereau'd me of
the prop and stay of declined age, my daughters (I mean)
whose bleeding goastes will neuer bee appeas'd; nor ne-
uer sleep in quiet vpon the ioyful banks of Elizian fields,
but wander vp and downe the woodes, filling each
corner of the earth with fearefull clamors of murder
and reuenge, no; neuer shall the furies of my angry senle
bee pacified, untill my eyes beholde a streame of purple
goze run trickling from the detestable bze of that accur-
sed riuier, and that the blood may issue from his guiltie
heart like a fountaine with a hundred springes, where-
by the pavements of his Castle may be sprinkled with
the same, and the wals of his Turrets colozed with a
crimson hebe, like to the Streets of Troy, when as her cha-
nels ran with blood: at the end of this sorrowfull lamen-
tation, what for grieve, and what for want of natural rest,
my eyes closed together and my senses fell into a heavy
leepe.

But as I say: slumbring in the gréne meadowes, I
dreamed that there was a great and fierce wilde man,
which stood be fore me with a sharp saushion in his hand,
making as though he would kill me, wherat me thought
I was so frighted, that I gane (in my troublesome dreams)
many terrible speeches, calling for succour to the emptie
ayre. Then me thought there appeared be fore my face
a company of courteous knights, which saide vnto mee,
feare not old man, for we be come from the soules of thy
daughters to aide and succour thee, but yet for all this, the
wilde man banished not away, but stroke with his saushion
on my bze, wherat it seemed to open, and howe
that the wilde centaur put his hands into the wounde
and pulled out my heart, so straight at the same in-
stant mee thought that one of the knights like wise
layde hold vpon my hart, and stroue together with much
contention, who should pull it from the others handes,

The second Part of

but in the end each of them remained with a piece in his hand, and my heart parted in two.

When the piece which remained in the fool's mans possession was gone, and the piece which remained in the power of the knight, converted into redde blood, and so they continued always.

When straight after this there appeared before my eyes the image of my mother's daughter in the selfe same manner and for the same purpose as you have here portrayed, who with a naked bodie all bedewed in blood, was posted unto me, the true discourse of her unhappy fortunes, and to let me in what place, and where her body lay in the woods, without any want of buriall. Also describing me of my selfe to attempt the redemption, for it was impossible, but to intombe her corpse by her mother, and cause the picture of her body to be painted in the place portrayed and wrought of the chivalrie in the same manner that I found it in the woods, and after erect it nere unto a common passage, where aduenterous knights do usually trauaile. Also stirring me that whether shoulde come certaine christian Champions that should requite my injuries and inhumane murder.

Which words being finished, me thought she vanished away, with a gracious and beauteous grace, leaving behind her certaine drops of blood sprinkled upon the grasse where she lay, with great perplexitie and more sorrow I awaked out of my dreame, bearing it in my greivous minde, not revealing it, not so much as to the little wyfe, but with all expedition perfolowing her bleeding soul's request.

And have since since most carefull and noble knights, you have here painted her unhappy death and my unhappy fortune, spending the time in writing her doleful tragique in blood red lines, the which I knowe to your great grieve, you have read in this book of gold.

Her love most courteous knights if euer honor encouraged

the fenten Champions

raged you to fight in Noble adventures, I now most earnestly intreat you with your magnanimous fortitudes to assist me to take reuengement, for the greafe crueltie that hath bene done against my daughter.

At the reading of this sorrowfull hystorie, Saint George with the other Champions did shed many teares, where with there did increase in the a further desire of reuengement, and being moued with great compassion, they protested by their promises made to the honoz of Knighthood, to perseuer speedily on their vowed reuenge and determined purpose: also calling heauen to be witnesse to their plight oathes, protesting that sooner shoulde the liues of all the famous Romaines bee raised from death from the time of Romulus to Caesar, and all the rest unto this time, then to be perswaded to returne from their promises, and neuer to trauell backe into Christendome till they had performed their vowes, and thus burning with desire, to see the end of this sorrowfull adventure: Saint George clapped by the bloody written booke, and gaue it againe to the Shepheard, and so they proceeded forwarde towards the land where the knight of the black Castle had his residence, guided onely by the direction of the old man, whose aged limbes seemed so tuffe in traueling that it prognosticated a luckie event: In which iorney were with leaue the Champions for a time, with the wonderfull provision that the knight of the blacke Castle made in his defence, the success, whereof will be the strangest that euer was reported, and returne and speake of Saint Georges three spanes in the persute of their Father where we left them (as you heard before) traueling from the confines of Barbarie where they redeemed the Normaine Lady from the Caluyng Spores.

CHAP.

The second Part of



CHAP. VI.

A wonderfull and strange aduenture that hapned to Saint George his Sonnes, in the persute of their Father, by finding certaine droppes of blood, with Virgins hayre scattered in the fieldes, and how they were certified of the iniurious dealing of the Knight of the blacke Castle against the Queene of Armenia.



Many and dangerous were the adventures of the three valiant Princes in the persute of their father Saint George, and many were the Countreys, Ilands, and Princes Courts, that they searched to obtaine a wished sight of his martiall countenance, but all to small purpose; for fortune neither call them happilie vpon that coast, where he with his famous Champions had their residence, nor luckily founde in their eares the places of their abynall.

In which persute I omit and passe ouer many Noble adventures that these three Princes atchieued, as well vpon the raging oceans as vpon the firme Land, and wholie miscounte vppon an accident that hapned to them in an Iland

the seven Champions.

Glend bordering upon the confines of Armenia, nere by to the land where the knight of the blacke Castle remained as you heard in the last Chapter, upon which coast after they were arrived, they travelled in a broad and straight path untill such time as they came to a very faire and delectable forrest, where as sundry chirping birdes had gathered themselves together, to refresh and shooke themselves from the parching heat of the golden Sonne: filling the ayre with the pleasures of their silver tuned notes.

In this forrest they travellled almost thre howeres, and then they went up to a small mountaine which was at hand, from the which they discovered very faire and wel towered towne with princely pallaces very sumptuous to behold: like wise they discovered from the hill a foyre fontaine wrought all of marble like unto a pillar, out of which did proceede foure spoutes running with water, which fell into a great Cestene, and coming to it they washed their handes and refreshed their faces, and so departed.

After they looked round about them on every side, and toward their right handes they espied amongst the company of greene trees, a small Tent of blacke cloth, towards which these yong Princes directed their courses with an easie pace, but when they had entered the Tent, and sawe no bodie therein, they remained silent a while, harping if they could heare any singing, but they could neither see nor heare any thing, but onely they found the print of certain little foete upon the same, which caused them more earnestly to desire to know whose foete steps they were, so that they seemed to be of some Ladies or Damisels: so finding the trace they followed the same, and the more the knights followed, the more the Ladies seemed to haile: so long they pursued after the trace, that at the end they approached a little mountaine where as they found scattered about certain lockes of yellow haire, which seemed to be threes of

The second Part of

golde, and stooping together them vp, they perceived that
 some of them were wet with spots of blood, whereby they
 tooke under stood, that in great anger they were pulled from
 some ill aduers head: like which they saw in diuers places how
 the earth was spotted with drops of crimson blood: then
 with a more will then they had before, they went up to
 the top of that little mountaine, and having lost the foot-
 steps, they recovered it againe by gathering up the hayre,
 where they had not traueled far by the mountaine, but to-
 wards the waters side they heard a grievous complaint,
 which seemed to be the voice of a woman in great distresse,
 and the words which the knights did vnderstand were
 these: O loue, now shalt thou no more reioyce nor haue a-
 ny longer dominion vnder me, for death is ready to cut
 my thred of life and finally these my sorrowful lamentations
 shall be vnto thee: O almighty I will requiement at the powers of hea-
 uen against that wicked witch that hath bene the causer
 of my banishment, but yet they will not hear my request:
 how ofte haue I made my sad complaints to hell? yet hath
 the fathall furies stoppt their eares against my woful cries.
 And with this she held her peace, giuing a sorrowful sigh:
 which being done, the three christian knights turned their
 eyes to the place from whence they heard this complaint,
 and discovered amongst certaine greene trees a Lady who
 was enuironed with singular beautie, being so excellent that
 it almost deppressed them of their hurts & captivated their
 senses in the snarres of love, which libertie as yet they ne-
 ver lost: she had her haire about her eares, which hung de-
 fusedly downe her comely shoulders, though the violence
 she vsed against her selfe, and leaning her cheek vpon her
 delicate white hand that was smitten with blood,
 which was constrained by the scratching of her nails vpon
 herrosse colored face: by her side stood her damsel which
 they considered to be her daughter, for she had in vir-
 gin colored silk more luster then the silkes of the best:
 and as pleasant to behold as the glistening of a

the seven Champions.

clear winters freezing night: yet for all this delectable sight, the three princely knights would not discover themselves but stood closely behinde the three pine trees which grew nere unto the mountaine to heare the cunct of this accident, but as they stood cloaked in silence, they heard her thus to confer with her beaulifull daughter. Oh my Rosana (quoth she) the unhappie figure of him, that without pittie hath wounded my heart and left me comfortles with the greatest crueltie that ever knight or gentleman left Lady: how hath it been possible that I have had the force to bring up the child of such a father which hath bereaved me of my libertie: O you soveraigne gods of heauen, grant y I may establish in my minde the remembrance of the loue of thy adulterous father: oh girle borne to a further griefe, heere doe I desire the guider of thy fortunes, that thy glistering beantie may have such force and power, whereby the shining beames thereof may take reuenge in end of the dishonour of thy mother: giue rare deare childe I say vnto thy dying mother, thou that art born in the dishonour of thy generation, by the losse of my virginity, heere doe I charge thee vpon my blessing, even at my houre of death, I swear thee by the omnipotent God of heauen, neuer to suffer thy beauty to be enioyed by any one, untill thy disloyal fathers head bee offered vp in a sacrifice vnto my graue, thereby somewhat to appease the furie of my discontented soule, and recover part of my former glorie.

These and such like words spake this afflicted queene, to the wonderfull amazement of the three young knights, which as yet intended not to discover themselves, but to marke the event, for they coniectured that her wofull complaints were the induction of some strange accident: Thus as they stood obscurely behinde the trees, they sawe the young and beaufifull Damsell giue vnto her dying mother paper, penne and Inke, the which she pulled from her boosome, wherein with the greene queene subscribed certain sorrowfull lines vnto him y was

The second Part of



CHAP. VI.

A wonderfull and strange aduenture that hapned to Saint George his Sonnes, in the persute of their Father, by finding certaine droppes of bloud, with Virgins hayre scattered in the fieldes, and how they were certified of the iniurious dealing of the Knight of the blacke Castle against the Queene of Armenia.



Many and dangerous were the aduentures of the three valiant Princes in the persute of their father Saint George, and many were the Countries, Ilands, and Princes Courts, that they searched to obtaine a wished sight of his martiall countenance, but all to small purpose, for fortune neither cast them happilie vpon that coast, where he with his famous Champions had their residence, nor luckily sounded in their eares the pl. of their arrivalls.

In which persute I omit and passe over many Noble aduentures that these three Princes atchieved, as well vpon the raging oceans as vpon the firme Land, and wholie discourse vpon an accident that hapned to them in an Iland

the seven Champions.

Land bordering upon the confines of Armenia, neere unto the Land where the knight of the blacke Castle remained as you heard in the last Chapter, upon which coast after they were arrived, they travelled in a broad and straight path untill such time as they came to a verie faire and delectable forrest, where as sundry chirping birdes had gathered themselves together, to refresh and shooke themselves from the parching heat of the golden sunne: filling the ayre with the pleasures of their silver tuned notes.

In this forrest they travelled almost two howers, and then they went up to a small mountain which was at hand, from the which they discovered very faire and well towered townes with princely pallaces very sumptuous to behold: likewise they discovered from thence a fayre fountaine wrought all of marble like unto a Pillar, out of which did proceede foure spoutes running with water, which fell into a great Cestne, and comming to it they washed their handes and refreshed their faces, and so departed.

After they looked round about them on every side, and toward their right handes they espied amongst a company of greene trees, a small Tent of blacke cloth, towards which these yong Princes directed their courses with an easie pace, but when they had entred the Tent, and sawe no bodie therein, they remained silent a while, harkning if they could heare any stirring, but they could neither see nor heare any thing, but onely they found the print of certain little foete upon the same, which caused them more earnestly to desire to know whose foote steps they were, so that they seemed to be of some Ladies or Damisels: so finding the trace they followed the same, and the more the knights followed, the more the Ladies seemed to halt: so long they pursued after the trace, that at the end they approached a little mountain where as they found scattered about, certain lockes of yellow haire, which seemed to be thides of

The second Part of

golde, and stooping to gather them vp, they perceiued that some of them were wet with spots of blood, whereby they wel vnderstood, that in great anger they were pulled from some Ladies head: lik wise they saw in diuers places how the earth was spotted with droppes of crimson blood: then with a more desire then they had before, they went vp to the top of that litle mountaine, and hauing lost the foote steps, they recouered it againe by gathering vp the hayre, where they had not traueled far by the mountaine, but towards the waters side they heard a greuous complaint, which seemed to be the voice of a woman in great distresse, and the wordes which the knights did vnderstand were these: O loue, now shalt thou no more reioyce nor haue any longer dominion ouer me, for death I see is ready to cut my thred of life and finally these my so sorowful lamentations how oft hath I aske redemption at the powers of heauen against that wicked wretch that hath bene the causer of my banishment, but yet they will not hear my request: how ofte haue I made my sad complaints to hell? yet hath the fatall furies stoppt their eares against my woful cries. And with this she held her peace, giuing a so sorowful sighe: which being done, the three chistian knights turned their eyes to the place from whence they heard this complaint, and discovered amongst certaine greene trees a Lady who was endow'd with singuler beautie, being so excellent that it almost deppined them of their hearts & captinated their senses in the snares of loue, which libertie as yet they neuer lost: she had her haire about her eares, which hung defusedly downe her comely sholders, though the violence she vsed against her selfe, and leaning her cheek vpon her delicate white hand that was with spots with blood, which was constrained by the scratching of her nails vpon her blisse colozed face: by her stow and her banisel which they coniectured to be her daughter for she was clad in virgin colozed silk more whiter then the Lillys of the fieldes: and as pleasante to beholde as the glistring of the sunne in a
clear

the seven Champions.

cleare winters freezing night: yet for all this delectable sight, the three princely knights wold not discover theselues but stood closely behinde the three pine trees which grew nere vnto the mountaine to heare the cument of this accident, but as they stood cloaked in silence, they heard her thus to confer with her beaulifull daughter. Oh my Rosana (quoth she) the unhappie figure of him, that without pittie hath wounded my heart and left me comfortles with the greatest crueltie that euer knight or gentleman left Lady: how hath it been possible that I haue had the force to bring vp the child of such a father which hath bereaued me of my libertie? O you soueraigne gods of heauen, grant y I may establish in my minde the remembrance of the loue of thy adulterous father: oh girle borne to a further griefe, heere doe I desire the guider of thy fortunes, that thy glistering beautie may haue such force and power, whereby the shining beames thereof may take reuengement of the dishonour of thy mother: giue eare deare childe I say vnto thy dying mother, thou that art born in the dishonour of thy generation, by the losse of my virginity, heere doe I charge thee vpon my blessing, euen at my houre of death, I swear thee by the omnipotent God of heauen, neuer to suffer thy beauty to be enioyd by any one, untill thy disloyal fathers head be offered vp in a sacrifice vnto my graue, thereby somewhat to appease the furie of my discontented soule, and recouer part of my former glorie.

These and such like words spake this afflicted queene, to the wonderfull amazement of the three young knights, which as yet intended not to discover themselves, but to marke the cument, for they coniectured that her wofull complaints were the induction of some strange accident: Thus as they stood obscurely behinde the trees, they sawe the young and beaufull Damsell giue vnto her dying mother, paper, penne and Inke, the which she pulled from her quorie bosome, wherewith the greued queene subscribed certain sorrowful lines vnto him y was the

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the causer of her banishment: and making an end of her writing, they heard her (with a dying breath) speake vnto her daughter these sorrowfull wordes following. Come daughter (quoth shee) beholde thy Mother at her latest gaspe, and imprint my dying request in thy heart as a table of brasse, that it neuer may be forgotten, time will not giue me longer respite, that with wordes I might shew vnto thee my deepe afflictions, for that I feele my death approaching and the fatall sisters ready to cut my thrid of life a sunder betwene the edges of their shieres, insomuch that I molte miserable creature do feele my soule trembling in my flesh, and my heart quivering at this my last and fatal houre, but one thing (my sweet and tender child) doe I desire of thee before I dye: which is, that thou wouldest procure that this letter may bee giuen to that cruell knight thy disloyall father, giuing him to vnderstand of this my troublesome death, the occasion whereof was his vnreasonable crueltie: and making an end of saying this, the miserable Quene fell downe, not hauing any more strength to sit vp, but let the letter fall out of her hand, the which her sorrowfull daughter presently tooke vp, and falling vpon her mothers brest, she replied in this sorrowfull manner. O my sweete mother tell me not that you will dye, for it adds a torment more greivous vnto my soule then the punishments which Danaus daughters feele in hell, I would rather be torne in peeces by the fury of some mercuriall monster, or to haue my heart parted in twaine by the handes of that that is my greatest enemy, then to remaine without your companie, sweete mother let these my youthfull piers, and this my graine budding beauty incourage you still to reuiue, and not to leaue me comfortles like an exile in the world, but if the gloomy fates doe triumph in your death, and abridge your breathing ayre of life, and that your soule must needs goe wander in the Elizian shades with Trufas shadows and with Didoes ghost, here doe I protest by the greate and tender loue I beare

the seven Champions.

heare you, and by the due obedience that I owe vnto your age, either to deliuer this your letter into the hands of my vnkinde father, or with these my ruthful fingers rent my heart in sunder, and before I will forget my vow, the siluer Streamed Tygris shall forsake her course, the sea her tides, and the glittering Quene of night her vniuersall changes: neither shall any forgetfulness be an occasion to withdraw my minde from performing your dying requestes: Then this weak Quene whose power and strength was wholie decayed, and that her houre of death drew neere at hand, with a feeble voice she said. O you sacred & immortal Gods, and all you bright celestially powers of heauen, into your deuyne bosomes now do I commend my dying soule, asaying no other reuengment against my causer of my death, but that he may die like mee, for want of loue. After this the dead Quene neuer spake word more, for at that instant, the cruell destinies gaue end vnto her life: but when Rosana perceiued her to be dead, and she left to the world deuoid of comfort, she began to teare the golden trameles from her head, and most furiously to beat her white and yuorie brest, filling the emptie ayre with clamours of her moanes, and making the skies like an echo to resound her lamentations, and at last taking her mothers letter in her hands, washing it with floods of teares, and putting it next vnto her naked brest, she said: heere lyc thou neere adioining to my bleeding heart, neuer to be remoued vntil I haue performed my mothers dying testament. O worke and the last worke of those her white and yuorie hands: heere doe I sweare by the honoz of true Virgins, not to part it from my bleeding bosom vntil such time as loue hath rent the disloyall heart of my vnkinde father. and in speaking this she kissed it a thousand times, breathing forth millions of sighes and straight with a blushing countenance as radiant as Auroras glistering beames, she arose & said: what is this Rosana, dost thou thinke to recall thy mothers life with ceremonious complaints and not performe that

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which by her was commanded thee, arise, arise I say, gather vnto thy selfe strength and courage, and wander vp and downe the world till thou hast found thy disloyal Father as thy true heart hath promised to doe. These words being no sooner finished but Saint Georges Sonnes like men whose hearts were almost overcome with griefe, came from the pine trees and discovered themselves to the Damsell, and curteously requested her to discourse the storie of all her passed miseries, and as they were true christian knights they promised her (if it lay in their powers) to release her sorrows, and to giue end vnto her miseries. This Rosana when she beheld these curteous and well demeanur'd knights, which in her conceit caried relenting mindes and how kindly they desired to be partners in her griefes, she stood not vpon curious tearmes, nor vpon vaine exceptions, but most willingly condescended to their requests: so when they had prepared their eares to entertaine her sad and sorrowfull discourse, with a sober countenance, shee began in this manner: Lately I was (quoth she whilst fortune smild vpon me) the onely childe and daughter of this liucles Quene that you beholde heer lying dead, and she befoze my birth whilst heauen granted her prosperitie was the maiden Quene of a Countrie called Armenia, adioyning neare vnto this vnhappie Island: whome in her yong yeeres when her beautie began to flourish, and her high renowne to mount vpon the wings of fame, she was intrapped with the golden baite of blind Cupid, & so intangled with the love of a disloyall knight, call'd the knight of the black Castle, who after he had flourish't in the spoyle of her Virginitie, and had left his fruitfull seede springing in her womb, grew wearie of his love, and most discourteously left her as a shame vnto her Countrie, and a staine vnto her kindred, and after gaue himself to such lustfull and lasciuious manner of life, that hee vnlawfullie married a shepheards daughter in a foraine land, and likewise ravished her owne sister, and after committed

the seven Champions.

mitted her most inhumane slaughter in a solitarie woode: this being done, he fortified himselfe in his blacke Castle, onely comforted with a cunning Nigromancer, whose skill in magick is so excellent, that al the knights in the world can neuer conquer the Castle, where ever since hee hath remained in despite of the whole earth.

But now speake I of the tragical storie of my unhappy mother, when as I her unfortunate babe beganne first to strangle in her womb, wherein I wold I had bene strangled: she heard newes of her knights ill demeanur, and how he had wholly given himselfe to the spoile of virginities, and had for ever left her loue, neuer intending to returne againe, the grief wherof so troubled her mind, that she could not in any wise desemble it, for wps a time being amongst her Ladies, calling to remembrance her spotted Virginitie, and the seeds of dishonour planted in her wombe, she fell into a wonderfull and strange traunce, as though she had been oppressed with sodain death, which when her Ladies and damfels beheld, they presently determined to vnbace her rich ornaments, and to carrie her vnto her bed; but she made signes with her handes that they should depart and leaue her alone, whose commaundement they strait way obeyed, not without great sorrow of them all, their loues were so deere. This afflicted Queen when she saw that she was alone, began to exclaime against her fortune, reuealing the fates with bitter exclamations, O vncoustant Queene of chance (said shee) thou that hast warped such strange wels in my kingdom, thou that ganest my hono: to that tirants lust, which without al remorse hath left me comfortles, tis thou that didst constrain me to set my life to sale, & to sel my hono: as it were with the crier, compelling me to do that which hath spotted my princely estate, and stain'd my bright hono: with blacke infamie: woe is me for my virginity, & which my parents gaue me charge to haue respect vnto: but I haue carelessly kept it, & finally regarded it: I will therefore so chastise my body, for
thus

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thus forgetting of my selfe, and be so reuenged for the little regarde that I haue made of my honour, that it shall be an example to all noble Ladies and Princes of high estate.

Oh miserable Quene, oh fond and unhappy Lady: thy speeches be too foolish, for although thy desperate hand should pull out thy dispaired harte from thy bleeding breast, yet can it not make satisfaction for thy dishonour.

Oh Heanens, why do you not cast some fiery thunder-bolt downe vpon my head: or why doth not the earth gape and swallowe my infamous bodye? Oh false and deceiuing Lord, I would thy louing and amorous words had neuer bene spoken: nor thy quicke sighted eyes, neuer gazde vpon my beautie: then had I florist still with glory and renowne, and had a happy Virgin of chaste Dianes traine.

With these and other like lamentations, this grieved Quene passed away the time, till at laste she felte her wombe to growe big with childe: at the which she receiued double paine, for that it was impossible to couer or hide it, and seeing her selfe in this case, like a woman hated and abhorred, she determined to discover her selfe publicly vnto her subiectes, and deliver her body vnto them to be sacrificed vnto their Gods: and with this determination, one day she caused certaine of her Nobles to be sent for, who straightway fulfilled her commaundement. but when she perceined her Lords, Knights and Gentlemen of honour came altogether before her, she couered her selfe with a rich robe and late vpon her bed in her private chamber, being so pale and leane, that all them that sawe her had greate compassion vpon her sorrowe: being all set round about her bed and keeping silence, she reuealed to them the cause of her griefe in this manner.

My Lords (quoth she) I shame to intple my selfe your Quene and Soueraigne, in that I haue defamed the honour of my Countrie, and little regarded the welfare of our
Common.

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Common wealth : my glistering crowne me thinkes is shaded with a cloude of black disgrace, and my Princely attire conuerted into vchaste habiliments, in which I haue both lost the libertie of my heart, and withall my wonted ioy, and am now constrained to indure perpetual paine, and an euer pining death : For I haue lost my honour, and reconered shame and infamie.

To conclude, I haue for gone the liberty of a Quene, and solde my self to a slauiſh sinne, onely mine owne is the fault, and mine owne shall be the punishment. Therefore without making any excuse, I heere surrender vp my body into your powers, for that you may as an (euill queen) sacrifice me vnto our Gods : also that within my accursed wombe, for now my Lords you shall vnderstand, that I am dishonored by the knight of the black Castle: he hath planted a Thine within my fruitful garden, and sowed a seede that hath made Armenia infamouse: he it is that hath committed so many evils in the world: he it is that delights in virgins spoiles, and hee it is that hath bereau'd mee of my honoꝛ, but with my good will I must needs confesse, and lest me for a testimonie of this my euill deed, big with child, by which my virgins glozy is conuerted to a monstrous scandall: and with this she made an end of her lamentable speech: And being grauouly oppress'd with the paine of her burthenous wombe, she late her downe vpon her rich bedde, and attended their wils: but when these Charles, Lords and honorable personages that were present, had vnderstood all that the Quene had saide vnto them, like men greatly amazed, they changed their colours from red to white, and from white to red, in signe of anger, and looking one vpon an other, without speaking any worde, but painting in their hearts the fault done by their Quene, to the great disgrace of their countrie, and so without any further consideration, they deprived her from all princely dignitie, both of her crowne and regiment, and pronounced her perpetuall banishment from all

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nit, like subiectes not to bee gouerned by such a defamed
Prince, that hath grafted the fruit of of such a wicked tree
within her wombe.

So at the time appointed like a woman so lone and
hated of all companies, shee stoyed her selfe sufficient with
treasure, and betooke her selfe to her appointed banish-
ment, after whose departure the Armenians, elected them
selues an other Prince, and left their lawfull Queene
wandering in unknowne places, big with child deuide of
sorrow and relief, where instead of her Princely bed co-
uered with Canopies of silk, shee tooke her nightly repose
vpon the green grasse, shadowed with the sable curtaines of
heauen, and the nurses that were provided against her
deliuerie were Pimphees and faeries dancing in the
night by Proserpines commaundement: thus in greate
griefe continued she many daies contenting her selfe with
her appointed banishment, making her lamentations to
the whizzing winds, which seemed in her conceipt to re-
answere her complaints: at length the glistering moone
had ten times borrowed light of the golden Phœbus, and
the nights cleare candle were now almost extinguished,
by which time approached the houre of her laborious tra-
uell, wherein onely by the assistance of heauen shee was
deliuered of me her unhappy daughter, where euer since
I haue bene nourished by the beuine powers of heauen,
for many times when I came to péece of discretion, my
wofull mother would discourse vnto me this lamentable
story of both our miseries, the which I haue moste truely
related vnto you.

My wise shee told me that many times in my infancie,
when she wanted milke in her breasts to nourish me, there
would come a Lionesse, and sometimes a shee Beare and
gently giue me sucke, and contrarie to the nature of wilde
beastes, they would many times sporte with, where by she
coniectured that the infinit all powers had preserved me
for some strange fortune: likewise at my birth, nature had
pictur'd

the Seven Champions.

plour'd upon my hizeft, directly betwixt my tender Waps,
the lively forme of a purple Rose, which as yet both beau-
tifie my bosome with a vermillion collour: and this was
the cause that my mother named me Rosana, answerable
to natures marke.

After this we liu'd many a yere in great distresse, pe-
nurie and want, soliciting heauen to redresse our woes,
more oftner then we had liued houres: the abundance of
our teares might suffice to make a watry sea, and our
sighes in number to counterballe the starres of heauen:
but at last the fatal sisters listned to my mothers moanes &
to my great sorrow, depriued her of her life, where now I
am left a comfortles Orphan to the woorld, attending the
time vntill that heauen send some courteous Knight that
may conduct me to that blacke Castle, where my disloyall
father hath his residence, that I might there perform my
mothers dying will: these words being finished, Rosana
stood silent, so that her extreame grieffe hindred the pas-
sage of her tongue, and her eyes rained such a shewer of
pearled teares vpon the lineles body of her mother, that it
constrained Saint Georges blood to expresse the like
sorrow: but after they had let fall a few salt teares down
from their sad eyes, and had taken twice so a time with
griefe, they tooke Rosana by the hand, (which before that
time neuer toucht the body of any man) and protested ne-
uer to depart from her company til they had safely deliue-
red her into the blacke Castle.

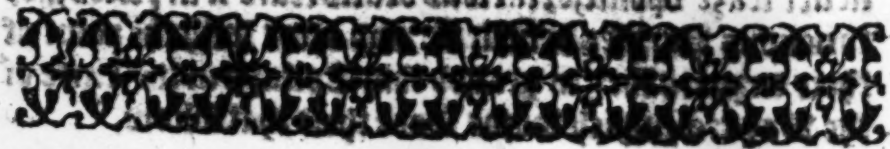
After this when the Christian Knightes had pitifully
bewailed the miserie and vntimely death of her mother,
they tooke their daggers and digged a deep graue vnder a
Bay tree and buried her body, that hungry rauens might
neuer seaze vpon it, or furious beasts teare it in peeces, nor
ravenous Harpies devour it: and after with the point of
their daggers they in graued this Epitaph in the rinde of
the Bay tree, which words were these that follow.

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*The Epitaph ouer the graue of the
vnfortunate Queene of Armenia.*

Heere lies the body of a haples Queene,
Whose great goodwill to her, final loue did
bring:
Her faithfull minde requited was with teene
Though she deserud for loue a regall King.
And as her corpes inclosed heere doth lye,
Her lucklesse fate, and fame shal neuer dye.

So when they had made this Epitaph and couered her
grauē with grasse turnes, they departed forwaie on their
iorney towards the blakke Castle, where wee will leaue
them in their trauels, and returne to the Bishopal Leager,
and howe hee fortified his Castle by magick arte, accor-
ding to the learned skill of a cunning Nigromancer, and
of the adventures that hapned to Iacobus George with the
other Christian Champions in the same Castle, therefore
graunt you immortall powers of heauen, that my penne
may be dipt in the waters of that learned fountain, where
the nine Muses doe inhabite, that by the helpe of that sweet
liquor my muse may haue a delightfull habit, so that imi-
ting the speech of Mercury, with the words of Mars, I
may discourse of the strangest accident that euer hapned
to wandering knights.



the seven Champions.



CHAP. VIII.

Of the preparation that the Knight of the blacke Castle made by magick arte, to withstand his enemies, and how the seven Champions entred the same Castle, where they were inchaunted into a dead sleep, so long as seven Lamps burned, which coulde not bee quenched but by the vvater of an inchaunted Fountaine.



De wicked Leoger as you have read of before, being the knight of the blacke Castle, and one that for wealth and treasure surpassed the mightiest potentate of those countries, when he grew detested and abhorred in every companie, as well by noble knights, as gallant ladies, for the spoile and murder of those three comely Danieles, whose pittifull stories you heard in the two past Chapters, and fearing a certain vengeance to fall upon his head, hee fortified himselfe strongly in his Castle, and with his treasure buyd many furious Giants to defend it: likewise it they sayed, a shole chance to be overcome, he consulted with a wicked Negro-mancer that with charmes and spells should bewitch the

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vers in his Castle, which magicall accomplishments we will passe over till a more convenient time, because I purpose to expaine the histories in good order to the readers: first speake we of Saint George with the other christian knights that came in reuenge of the Shepheard and his vnfortunate daughter, who with good successe arrived vpon the shoare of the Island, where this wicked Leogerant the Magician had fortified their blacke Castle: In which countie the Christian Champions, like the invincible followers of Mars, fearing no danger nor the frowns of vncoustant fortune, but betooke themselves the readiest way towards the Castle, in which tomes they were almost ranshed with the pleasures of the Island, for entring into a broad and straight lane, garnished on both sides with trees of diuers sortes, wherein they heard howe the Sommer birds recorded their pleasant melodies, and made their sweet and accustomed songes without feare of any man to molest them, in which rowe of pleasant trees that delighted them on both sides: there wanted not the green lantrel, so much esteemed of learned scholars; nor the sweet myrtle tree, loved by Ladies; nor the high Cypress so much regarded of Lovers, nor the stately pine, which for his flourishing height is called the prince of trees: whereby they iudged it to be a habitation for the Gods then any terrestrial country, for that the golden Sun with his glittering beamer to passe through those greene and pleasant trees without any hindrance of blacke clowdes: for the heavens were as cleare as tried silver, like while the soft serene winds did softly shake the shining leaues, whereby it made as sweet a harmony as the celestiall Chorus of heaven: a thousand little streames brookes ran vpon the enamelled groundes, making sundry fine wooken by their crooked turnings, and ioyning one water with another, with a very gentle meeting, making such silver musicke, that the Champions with the pleasure thereof were almost ranshed, and smally regarded whither their horses went

the seven Champions.

went right or no: and travelling in this sorte, they rode forward till they came into a meruailous great and wide meadow, beeing of so greate fairenes, that I am not able with any pen to painte out the excellencie therof: where as were feeding both wilde and tame Partes, adorned with great and cragged hoznes: likewise the furious wild Boze, the fierce Lyon and the simple Lambes were also, getting feeding with so great friendship, as to the contrary by nature they were enemies:

After at the noble Champions were almost overcome in their owne conceites, and amazed in their imaginati-
ons, to see so strange loue cleane contrarie vnto nature, and that there was no difference betwixt the loue of wilde beastes and tame: in this manner they travelled, till vpon a sodaine they arrived before the buildinges of the blacke Castle: and casting their eyes towards the same, they beheld neere vnto the principall Gate, right ouer the Castle, twelue Marble Pillers, of such an exceeding height, that the Pyramides of Egypt, were very lowe, in comparison of them: in such sorte, that whosoever would looke vpon them, was scant able with his sight to comprehend the height thereof: and they were all painted moste gorgeously with seuerall colours.

Downe belowe to wether the Castle there was an Arche with a Gate, which seemed to be of Diamondes, and all was compassed about with a great moate or ditch, being of so great a depth, that they thought it to reach to the midst of the earth and it was almost two hundred paces broad, and euery Gate had his Draw-bridge, all made of redde boordes, which seemed as though they had bene bathed all in blood.

Then the Champions rode to the other side of this godly Castle, wondering at the curious and sumptuous workmanship, where they espied a Pillar of beautifull Jasper Stone all wrought full of precious stones of strange work, the which pillar was of great value, and was garnished with

The second Part of

with chaines of golde, that were made fast vnto it by Magicks arte, at which Waller likewise hung a very costlye silver Trumpet, with certaine letters carued about the same, the which contained these wordes following.

If any dare attempt this place to see,
By sounding this, the Gate shall opened be.
A Trumpet heere inchained by magick arte
To daunt with fear the proudest chapiõs hart
Looke thou for blows that entrest in this gate
Returne in time, repentance comes too late.

The which when Saine George beheld, and had vnderstande the secrets of these mysticall wordes, without anye moze tarryinge, he sette the silver Trumpet to his mouth, and sounded such a vehement blaske, that it thundred in the elements, and seemed to shake the foundation of the Castle: whereat the principall Gate presently opened, and the drawe Bridge was let downe, without the helpe of any visible hand, which made the Champions to wonder, and to stand amazed at the strange accident, but yet intending not to returne like cowards daunted with a puffe of winde, they alighted from their warlike stodes, and delivered them vnto the olde shepheards hands, to be fed vpon the fragrant and greene grasse, till they had performed the adventure of the Castle, the which they bowed either to accomplishe, orauer to returne: Looking down their Beavers and drawing forth their klene edged salchons, they entered the Gates, and being safely within, the champions looked round about them to see if they could espye any body, but they saw nothing but a paire of winding stappes, whereat they alighted, but they had not gone many furlonges therein, toposi as there was so great a darkness,

the seven Champions.

ness, that scarce they could see any light, so that it rather seemed the similitude of hell, then any other worldly place, and so groping by the walles, they kept their going down those narrow and turning staires, which were very long, and of such length, that they thought they descended into the middle of the earth.

They spent a great time in descending those staires, but in the end they came into a very faire and large Court all compassed with Iron grates like unto a prison, or a place provided to keep untamed Lyons, wherein casting their eyes up to the toppe of the Castle they behelde the wicked knight walking with the Nigromancer vpon a large galerie, supported by huge pillars of brasse: likewise there was attending vpon them seven Giants, armed in mighty Iron coates, holding in their hands bats of asse: to whom the bolde and venturous Champion of England spake with a haughty courage and lowde voyce in this manner.

Come downe thou wicked knight, thou spoyle of virginity, thou that art inuironed with those monstrous Giants, those the wondrous worke of nature, whose daring looks seemeth to scale the heauens, like vnto the pride of Nemrod when hee offered to builde by Babels confusd Tower.

Come downe I say, from thy Brazen gallery, and take to thee thy armor, thou that hast a heart to commit a Virgins rape, for whose reuenge we come: now likewise haue a courage to make thy defence, for we bow neuer to returne out of thy Castle til we haue confounded thee and all thy forces.

At which words he held his peace, and expected an answer. But the wicked knight when hee heard these heroicall speeches of Saint George, began to fret & fume like to the starved Lyon, famished with hunger, or the irascible Tiger musing in humane blood, with a great desire to satissie his thirst: or like the wrath of dogged Cerberus

The second Part of

When as he feasted with Alcides fleshy, euen so ragged Leoger the knight of the blacke Castle, thzoutning forth furie from his sparkling eyes; and in this vile manner he reanswered the noble Champion of England: proud knight (said he) or peasant whatsoeuer thou arte, I passe not the smallest haire of my head, for thus vpbzayding me with thy vnculytunge, I wil byetorne thee speechlesse into hell, for the pauements of my Castle shall all be spzynkled with thy accursed blood, and the bones of those thy unhappy followers shall be buried in the Cakes of my chamnelles: if thou hadst brought the armie of triumphe Caesar, that made all landes to tremble wth his raring; yet were they but a blast of winde vnto my forces: Seest thou not my Giants which stand like oaks vpon this brazen gallery? they at my commandment shall take you from the places where you stand, and shal breake yououer the walles of my Castle, in such sorte, that they shall make you flye into the ayre, moze then tenne fathams high: and for that thou hast vpbzayded me with the disgrace don vnto a virgin: I tell thee, if I had thy mother heere, of whome thou takest first the ayre of life, my hand should splither twomb, that thou mightest see the bed of thy creation as Nero did in Rome: or if thy wife and children were heere present before thy face, I would abridge their liues, that thy accursed eyes might be witness of their bloodie murders: so much wyath and hate now rageth in my heart, that all the blood in Asia cannot wash it thence.

At which words, the Giants which he had hyed to defend him from his foes, came vnto him very strongly armed with sturdie weapons in their handes, and requested him to be quiet, and to abate his unsufferable anger, and they would fetch vnto his ptesence, all those bzaning knightes that were the occasion of his disquietnesse and anger: and so without taryng for any answer, they departed downe into the Courte, and left the knight of the Castle with the Pagitian, standing still vpon the gallery

the seven Champions.

lery to beholde the following encounters :

But when the Giants appoched the Champions presence, and sawe them so well proportioned and furnished, and knightes of so mighty statures, they flozished about their knotty clubbes, and purposed not to spend the time in wordes but in blowes.

Then one of the fiercest and cruellest Giants of them all (which was called Brandamond) seeing Saint George to be the forwardest in the enterprize, and iudging him to be the Dought that had so brased his Lord, he began with afterne countenance to speake vnto him in this manner : Art thou that bolde Knight (said the Giant) that with thy witlesse wordes haue so angred the mighty Leoger the Lord of this Castle if thou bee, I aduise thee by submissi- on, to seeke to appease his furious wꝛath before reuenge- ment be taken vppon thy person.

Also I doe require thee (that if thou wilt remaine with thy life) that thou dost leaue thy armour, and yelde thy selfe, with all these thy followers, with their handes fast bound behinde them, and goe and aske forgiveness at his seate: to which Saint George with a smiling countenance answered, Giant (said he) thy counsell I doe not like, nor his honoꝝ will I receiue, but rather we hope to send thee and all thy followers without tongues to the infernall King of the re Pleggerhon: and so that you shall not haue any more time to speake such folly and foolishnes, eyther returne your waies from whence you came, and repent you of this which you haue said, or els prepare your selues to mortall battell.

The Giants when they heard the Champions resolutions, and how lightly they regarded theyꝝ proffers, without any longer tariance they fell vppon Saynt George and his company intending with their knotty bats of stele to beate them as small as flsh vnto the pot, but the Miserie of chaunce so smyled vppon the chri- stian Champions, that the Giants smally preuailed, so

The second Part of it

with chaines of golde, that were made fast vnto it by Ma-
gicks arte; at which pillar like wise hung a very collyre
silver Trumpet; with certaine letters carued about the
same; the which contained these wordes following.

If any dare attempt this place to see,
By sounding this, the Gate shall opened be.
A Trumpet heere inchaired by magick arte
To daunt with fear the proudest chapiōs hart
Looke thou for blows that enrest in this gate
Returne in time, repentance comes too late.

The which when Saint George beheld, and had vn-
derstande the secrets of these mysticall wordes, without
any more tarryinge, he sette the silver Trumpet to his
mouth, and sounded such a beuiment blaste, that it thum-
bred in the elements, and seemed to shake the foundation
of the Castle: whereat the principall Gate presently ope-
ned, and the drawe bridge was let downe, without the
helpe of any visible hand; which made the Champions to
wonder, and to stand amazed at the strange accident, but
yet intending not to retire like cowards daunted with a
puffe of winde, they all ranne from their warlike stodes,
and deliuered them into the able shepheards hands, to be
scattered the fragrant and green grasse, till they had per-
formed the wordes of the Castle, the which they bowed
euer lowly, and thus they came to returne. Looking down
their Beavers and drawing forth their kene edged sa-
wards, they entered the Gates, and being safely within,
the champions all stood about them to see if they could
espye any way, but they saw nothing but a paire of hands
the length of the way, and they stood, but they had not gone
farre, when they saw, to their great a-mar-
nes,

the seven Champions.

nes, that scarce they could see any light, so that it rather seemed the similitude of hell, then any other woꝛldly place, and so groping by the walles, they kept their going down those narrow and turning staires, which were very long, and of such length, that they thought they descended into the middle of the earth.

They spent a great time in descending those staires, but in the end they came into a very faire and large Court all compassed with Iron grates like vnto a prison, or a place provided to keep bruted Lyons, wherein casting their eyes vp to the toppe of the Castle they behelde the wicked knight walking with the Nigromancer vpon a large galerie, supported by huge pillars of brasse: likewise there was attending vpon them seven Giants, armed in mighty Iron coates, holding in their hands bats of asiele: to whom the bolde and venterous Champion of England spake with a haughty courage and lowde voyce in this manner.

Come downe thou wicked knight, thou spoyle of virginity, thou that art incircled with those monstrous Giants, those the wondrous worke of nature, whose daring looks seemeth to scale the heauens, like vnto the pride of Nemrod when hee offered to builde by Babels confused Tower.

Come downe I say, from thy Brazen gallery, and take to thee thy armoz, thou that hast a heart to commit a Virgins rape, for whose reuenge we come: now likewise haue a courage to make thy defence, for we doo neuer to returne out of thy Castle til we haue confounded thee and all thy forces.

At which words he held his peace, and expected an answer. But the wicked knight when hee heard these heroicall speeches of Saint George, began to fret & fume like to the starved Lyon, famished with hunger, or the irascible Tiger musing in humane blood, with a great desire to satiffie his thirst: or like the wrath of dogged Cerberus

The second Part of:

When as he feasted with Alcides fleshy, euen for aged Leo-
ger the knight of the blacke Castle, thysatning forth fu-
rie from his sparkling eyes; and in this vile manner he
reanswered the noble Champiõ of England; proud knight
(said he) or peasant whatsoeuer thou arte, I passe not the
smallest haire of my head, for thus vnbayding me with
thy vnclytunge, I wil restore thee spechelesse into hell,
for the pavements of my Castle shall all be sprinkled with
thy accursed blood, and the bones of those thy unhappy fol-
lowers shall be buried in the Cakes of my chammelles: if
thou hadst brought the armie of invincible Calais, that
made all landes to tremble wth the cannyng; yet were they
but a blast of winde unto my feeres: Shall thou not my
Giants which stand like oaks vpon this brazen gallery?
they at my commaundment shall take you from the places
where you stand, and throwe you ouer the walles of my
Castle, in such sorte, that they shall make you flye into
the ayre, more then tenne fathams high: and for that
thou hast vnbayded me with the disgrace done vnto a vir-
gin: I tell thee, if I had thy mother here, of whome thou
tookst first the ayre of life, my hand should split her tomb,
that thou mightst see the bed of thy creation and Nest as in
Rome: or if thy wife and children were here present be-
fore thy face, I would abydge their liues, that thy accurs-
ed eyes might be witnesses of their bloodie murders: so
much wrath and hate now rageth in my heart, that all the
blood in Asia cannot wash it thence: and so he said.

At which words, the Giants which he had byred to de-
fend him from his foes, came vnto him very strongly ar-
med with sturdie weapons in their handes, and requested
him to be quiet, and to abate his insufferable anger, and
they woulde fetch him into his presence, all those braving
knightes that were the occasion of his disquietnesse and
anger: and so without saying for any answer, they de-
parted downe into the Courte, and left the knight of the
Castle with the Paglian, standing still vpon the gal-
lery

the seven Champions.

lery to beholde the following encounters :

But when the Giants approached the Champions presently, and sawe them so well proportioned and furnished, and knightes of so mighty statures, they flourished about their knotty clubbes, and purposed not to spend the time in wordes but in blowes.

Then one of the fiercest and cruellest Giants of them all (which was called Brandamord) seeing Saint George to be the forwardest in the enterprize, and iudging him to be the knight that had so be-sued his Lord, he began with a frowne countenance to speake vnto him in this manner: Art thou that bolde knight (said the Giant) that with thy witlesse wordes hast so angered the mighty Leoger the Lord of this Castle? If thou bee, I aduise thee by submissi-on, to seek to appease his furious wrath before reuenge-ment be taken vpon thy person.

Also I doe require thee (that if thou wilt remaine with thy life) that thou dost leaue thy armour, and yelde thy selfe, with all these thy followers, with their handes fast bound behinde them, and goe and aske forgiveness at his feet: to which Saint George with a smiling countenance answered, Giant (said he) thy counsell I doe not like, nor his hono^r will I receiue, but rather we hope to send thee and all thy followers without tongues to the infernall King of the Pyrethon: and so that you shall not tarry any more time to speak such folly and foolishnes, either returne your waies from whence you came, and repent you of this which you haue said, or els prepare your selues to mortall battell.

The Giants when they heard the Champions resolutions, and how lightly they regarded theyr proffers, without any longer tariance they fell vpon Saint George and his company intending with their knotty bats of scale to beate them as small as ash vnto the pot, but the will of chance so singled vpon the christian Champions, that the Giants smally prevailed, so

The second Part of

betwixt them was fought a long and terrible battell, in such danger that the victorie hung waivering on both sides not knowing to whome she should fall, the bats and fau-
shions made such a noise vpon one anothers armors, that they sounded like to the blowes of the Cudgels working vpon their fiery Anvils: and at euery blowe they gaue, fire flew from their steeld Corselets, like sparkles from the flaming furnaces in hell, the skirts resounded backe the echoes of their strokes, and the grounde shooke as though it had bene oppressed with an earth-quake: the pavements of the Court was overspred with an inter-
mixed colour of blood and sweat, and the wals of the Ca-
stle was mightily battered with the Giants clubs: but by the time that glistering Apollo the daies bright Candle began to declare from the top of heauen, when the Giants (wearyed in fight) began for to faint: whereat the Christi-
an Knights with more courage, beganne to increase in strength and with such rigour assailed the Giants that be-
fore the golden sunne had dined to the westerne world, all the Giants were quite discomfited and slaine, some lay with their heads dismembred from their bodies wel-
tering in purple gore, some had their braines spzinkled a-
gainst the walles, some lay in the channels with their in-
trails trayling downe in streames of blood, and some top-
teles with their bodies cut in peeces, so that there was
not one left alive to withstand the Christian Champi-
ons.

Whereat Saint George with the other five Knights fell vpon their knees and thanked the immortall Rector both of heauen and earth for their victorie.

But when the knight of the blacke Castle which stood vpon the gallerie during all the time of the encounter and saw how all his Giants were slaine by the prowess of those strang Knights, he raged against heauen and earth, wishing that the ground might gape and swallowe him, before he were deliuered into the hands of his enemies,
and

the seven Champions.

and presently would have caste himselfe head-long from the top of the gallery, to haue dashed his bzaines against the stony pauements, but that the Nigromancer which stood likewise by him beholding the euent of the incounter, intercepted him in his intended dzift, and promised that hee would performe by arte, what the Giants could not do by force.

So the Nigromancer fel to his magick spels & charms, by which the Chxistian Champions were mightily troubled and molested and bzought in danger of their liues, by a terrible and strange manner as shall bee hereafter sholue.

For as they stood after their long incounters vnbuckling their armors to take the fresh ayre and to wash their bloody wounds receined in their last confliate: the Magician caused by his arte and angry spirit in the likeness of a Lady of a marualous and faire beauty, looking thzough an yron grate, who seemed to leane her faire face vpon her white hand very penciuely, and distilled from her chxistal eyes great aboundance of teares, which when the Champions saw this beautiful creature, they remained in great admiration, thinking with themselves, that by some hard misfortune she was imprisoned in those yron grates, with that this Lady did seeme to open her faire and chxisteline eyes, looking earnestly vpon Saint George, and giuing a greuous and sorrowful sigh. She with dze to her selfe from the grate, which sodaine departure caused the Chxistian Knights to haue a great desire to know who it should be, suspecting that by the force of some inchantment they should be ouertholue: and casting by their eyes againe to see if they could see her, they could not, but they saw in the very same place a woman of a great and princely stature, who was all armed in siluer plates, with a sword girded at her waste, sheathed in a golden scabbord, and had hanging at her necke an Iuory bowe and a gilt quier, this Lady was of so great beaultie, that she seemed almost

The second Part of

to excell the other; but in the same sorte as the other did, vpon a sodaine she vanished away, leaving the Champions no lesse troubled in their thoughtes then befoze they were.

The christian Knightes had not long time be wayled the absence of the Lady, but that without seeing any body they were stricken with such furious blowes vpon their backs, that they were constrained to stoop with one knee vpon the ground, yet with a trice they arose againe, and looking about them to see who they were that smote them, they perswaded them to be the likenesse of certain knightes which in great haste seemed to runne into a doore that was at one of the corners of the Courte, and with the great anger that the Champions receiued, seeing them selues so hardly intreated, they followed with their accustomed lightnesse after the knightes, in at the same doore: where in they had not entred with steps, but that they fell downe into a deepe caue, which was couered ouer in such subtill sorte, that whosoener did tread on it, straight way fell into the caue, except he was aduertised thereof befoze: with in the caue it was as darke as the silent night, and no light at all appeared: but when the Champions saw themselves so treacherously betrayed in the trap, they greatly feared some further mischief would follow, to their utter ouerthrowes, so with their swords drawne, they stood ready charged to make their defence, againste what soener should after happen, but by reason of the great darkenesse they could not see any thing, neither discouer wherein they were fallen, they determined to fettle themselves against something, either poste, pillar or wall: and groaping about the caue, they searched in every place for some other doore that might bring them soorth out of that darkesome Denne, which they compared to the pit of hell.

And as they went groping and feeling vp and downe, they found that they trod vpon no other thinges but dead mens bones, which caused them to stand still: and not long

the seven Champions.

long after, they opened a secret window, at the which
entred much cleerenesse, and gaue a great light into the
den, where they were, by which they espyed a bed moſte
richly furnished with curtaynes of silke, and golden pen-
dants which stoode in a secret room of the caue, be hung
with rich tapeſtrie of a ſable colour, which bed when the
Champions beheld, and being ſomewhat weary of their
long fight which they had with the Giants in the Court
of the Caſtle, they required ſome reſt and deſired ſome
ſleepe vpon the bed, but not all at one inſtant: for they fea-
red ſome daunger to bee at hand, and therefore Saint
George as one moſt willing to be their watchman, and
to keepe ſenternyl in ſo daungerous a place, cauſed the o-
ther Champions to take their reſtes vpon the bed, and
he would be as wakefull as the cocke againſt all daunge-
rous accidents: ſo the ſire Chriſtian knights repaired to
the bed, whereon they were no ſooner layde, but preſently
they fell into a heavy and dead ſleep, in ſuch ſort that they
could not be awaked by any manner of violence, not all
the warlike drummes in Europe if they were ſounded in their
eares, nor the rattling thunder claps of heauen were ſuffi-
cient to recall them from their ſleeps, for indeed the bedde
was enchanted by the Nigromancers charmes, in ſuch
manner that whoſoeuer but ſate vpon the ſeeres, or but the
furniture of the bed, were preſently caſt into as heavy a
ſleepe as if they had drunke the royer of waille or the ſeede
of Doppie, where we will leaue them for a tyme like men
caſt into a trance, and ſpeake of the terrible aduenture
that hapned to Saint George in the caue, who little miſtru-
ſting of their enchantments, ſtoode like a carefull guard
keepeing the furious wolfe from the ſpoile of the ſilly ſheep:
but vpon a ſorgine highart began to throb, & his hayre to
ſtand on right vpon his head, yet hauing a heart ſtraught
with invincible courage, he purpoſed not to awake y other
knights, but of himſelfe to withſtand whatſoeuer hapned,
ſo being in his princely cogitation, there appeared to him as
be.

The second Part of

hee thought the shape of a Magician with a visage leane,
pale and full of wrinckles, with lockes of blacke hayze
hanging downe to his shoulders like to wreathes of in-
venomed snakes, and his body seemed to haue nothing
vpon it but skin and bones, who spake vnto S^{aint} George
in this dispitfull manner: In an euill houre (saith the Magi-
cian) camst thou hether, and so shalt thy longing be, and thy
entertainment worse, for now thou art in a place where,
as thou shalt looke for no other thing, but to be meat vnto
some furious beast, and thy surmountes strength shall not
be able to make any defence.

The English Champion whose heart was oppressed
with extreame wrath: answered, O false and accursed
charmer (saith he) whome Gods confound for thy condem-
ned artes, and for whom the fiends hath dig'd an everla-
sting tomb in hell, what furie hath incens'd thee, that with
thy false and deuillish charmes thou dost practise so much
euill against trauelling and aduenterous Knights, I
hope to obtaine my libertie in despite of al thy mischiefe
and with my stronge arme to breake all thy bones in sun-
der.

All that thou dost and wilt do wil I suffer at thy hands
replyed the Nigromancer, onely for the reuengement that
I will take of thee for the slaughter of the seauen Giants,
which as yet lyes murdered in the court, and that very
quickly, and therewithall hee went invisibly out of the
Cane: so not long after at his backe hee heard a sobaine
noise, and beheld as it were a window opening by little
and little, where as there appeared a cleare light, by the
which S^{aint} George plainly perceived that the wals of
the Cane were wash't with bloud, and like wise sawe that
the bones wherton they treade at their first entry into the
den were of humane bodies, which appeared not to be ve-
ry long since their flesh was torne off with hard and cru-
ell teeth, but this consideration could not long endure with
him, so that he heard a great rumo, and looking what it
should

the seven Champions.

Should be, he saw that there was coming forth out of an other den, a mightie serpent with wings, as great in body as an Elephant, he had onely two feet which appeared out of that monstrous body but of a span length, and each foote had thre clauwes of thre spannes in length, she came with her mouth open of so monstrous and huge a bigne, and so deformed, that a whole armed Knight horse and all, might enter in thereat, she had vpon her Iawes two tuskes which seemed to be as sharpe as any needles, and al her body was covered with hard scales of diuers colours, and with great fury she came with her wings all abroad, Saint George although he had a valiant and an vndaunted minde, yet could he not chuse but receiue some feare in seeing so monstrous a beast.

But considering with him selfe, that it was then time, and great need to haue courage, and to be expert and valiant for to make his defence, he tooke his good cutting sword in his hand, and shrowded himselfe vnder his hard and stronge sheelde, and tarried the coming of that ugly monster.

But when the furious beast saw that there was a pray whereon she might imploy her sharpe teeth, she stroake with her inuermous wings, and with her pearcing clauwes she griped, and layd fast hold vpon Saint Georges hard shield, pretending to haue swallowed whole this courageous warriour, and fastning her sharp tuskes vpon his helmet, which when she found so hard, she let goe her hold and furiously pulled at his target, with such a strenght that she pulled it from his arme: with that the English knight stroake at her head a most mightie and stronge blow with his sword, but in no wise it could hurt her, by reason of the hard scales wherewith it was couered, and though he gaue her no wound, yet for all that she felt the blow in such sort that it made her to recoite to the ground, and to fall vpon her long and hideous tayle, then this oppressed Knight made great hast to redouble his force

The second Part of

to strike her another blow: but all was in vaine, for that upon a sodaine she stretched her selfe so high, that he could not reach her head: but yet kinde Fortune so favoured his hand, that he stroke her vpon the belly, whereas shee had no defence with scales, nor any other thing but feathers: whereout issued such abundance of blacke blood, that it besprinkled all the denne about.

This terrible and furious Serpent, when she felt her selfe so sore wounded, stroke at Saint George such a terrible a blow with her taile, that if he had not seene it coming it had been sufficient to haue parted his bodie in peeces. The knight to cleare himselfe from the blow, fell flat vpon the ground, for he had no time to make any other defence. But that terrible blow was no sooner passed ouer him, but straight waies he recovered his feete, at such time as the furious Serpent came towards him. Here Saint George hauing a great confidence in his strength, performed such a valiant exploit, that all former adventures that hath been euer done by any knight, may bee put in obliuion, and this kept in perpetuall memorie: for that he threw his sword out of his hand, and ran vnto the Serpent, and embraced her betwixt his mightie armes, & did so squeeze her, that the furious Beast could not helpe her selfe with her shirpe claws, but onely with her wings she beat him on euerie side. This valiant Champion and noble Warriour would neuer let her loose, but still remained holding her betwixt his armes, continuing this perilous and dangerous fight, till all his bright armour was imbrued with her bestiall blood, by which occasion shee lost a great part of her strength, and was not able long to continue.

Long indured this great and dangerous incounter, and the infernall Serpent remained fast vnto the noble and valiant breast of the English knight, till such time as he plainly perceaued that the Monster began to weare faint, and to lose her strength. Likewise it could not be otherwise,

the seven Champions.

wise, but Saint George weyed somewhat wearie, consi-
 dering the former fight he had so lately with the Giants.
 Notwithstanding when he saw the great weaknes of the
 Serpent, he did animate himselfe with courage, and ha-
 ving opportunitie by reason of the quantitie of blood that
 issued from her wounds, he tooke his trustie sword & thrust
 it into her heart with such violence, that he cloue it in two
 peeces : so this infernall Monster fell downe dead to the
 ground, and carried the Christian Champion with her, for
 for that they were fast closed together, and by reason that
 the Serpent lacked strength, hee quickly cleere d himselfe
 out of her clawes, and recovered his sword. But when
 he saw certainly that hee was cleere from the Monster, &
 that she had yelved up her detested life into a little aire,
 he kneled downe and gave thanks to the immortall ma-
 iestie of God for his late delivrie. The venome was so
 great that the Serpent threw out to infect the knight, that
 if his armour had not been of a precious vertue, hee had
 been impoysoned to death.

After the victorie was obtained and the Monster dead,
 he grew verie wearie and unquiet, and was constrained
 to sit and coole himselfe by a Well which was full of wa-
 ter, standing by in a corner of the Cave, from whence the
 monstrous Serpent first appeared and came forth. And
 when he found himselfe refreshed, he repayed to the In-
 charnted bed whereupon the other sixe Champions laye
 sleeping, dreaming of no such straunge accident that had
 happened to him : to whom he purposed to reveale the true
 discourse of all the dangers that had befallne him in that
 accident.

But no sooner approached he unto that incharnted bed
 and had set himselfe downe upon the one side thereof, and
 thinking to begin his discourse, but he presently fell into
 a heaue and dead slumber.

Where will we leave them sleeping and dreaming up-
 on the incharnted bed, not to be wakened by anie means,

The second Part of

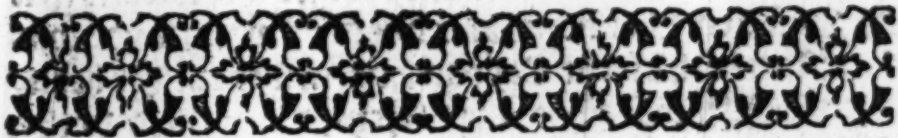
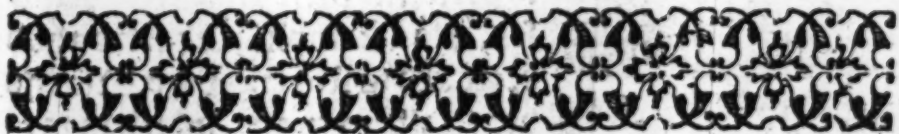
and returne to the Nigromancer that was busied all the time of the Serpents encounters, with Leoger in burying of the dead Giants: But now he knew by his arte, that the Serpent was slaine, and likewise Saint George oppressed with a charmed sleepe, in companie of the other Champions vpon the inchaunted bed, from whence hee purposed that they neuer more should awake, but spende their followed fortunes in eternall sleeps.

Then by his deuilish artes he caused seuen Lampes to burne continually before the entry of the Cane, the properties whereof were so strange, that so long as the Lampes continued burning, the Champions should neuer be awaked and the fiers should neuer be quenched but by the water of an inchaunted fountaine, the which he likewise by magick arte had erected in the middle of the court guarded most strongly with fearefull shapen, and the water should neuer be obtained but by a Virgin which at her birth should haue the forme of a Rose most liuely pictured vpon her breast.

These thinges being performed by the secrets of the Magicians skill added such a pleasure to Leogers heart, that he thought himselfe elevated higher then towers of heauen, so he accompted no ioy so pleasing vnto his soule as to see his mortall enemies captiuated in his power, and that the Magitian had done more by his artes, then all the Knights in Asia could performe by prowess: he will not now onely leaue the Champions in their sleeps dreaming of no mishap, but also the Magitian with Leoger in the blacke Castle, spending their time securely, careless of all insuing daunger, and speake now of the olde Shepherds whome the Champions at their first entring in at the gates of the Castle, where they left him to looke vnto their warlike palfries as they fed vpon the greene grasse: but when this olde man could heare no newes of the Champions returne, he greatly mistrusted their confusion, and that by some trecherie they were intercepted in
their

the seuen Champions.

their bowled reuengement, there fore he protested secretly
with his owne soule, in that for his sake so many braue
Champions had lost their liues, neuer to depart out of
those fieldes, but to spend his daies in moze sorrow then
did the haplesse King of Babilon, that for seaueri parching
Summers, and as many freezing Winters was constrain-
ned to feede vpon the flowers of the fieldes, and to drinke
the dewe of heauen, till the haire of his heade grewe so
stiffe as Eagles feathers, and the nailles of his fingers like
vnto birds clawes, the like extremitie he bowled to indure,
vntill he either reobtained a wished sight of those inuinci-
ble knights (the flowers of chivalry) or else were constrain-
ned by course of nature to yield vpon his loathed life, to the fu-
rie of those fatall sisters: In this deepe distresse will my
wearie muse likewise leane this old shepheard mourning
for the long absence of the English Champion and the o-
ther Christian Knights, and returne vnto Saint Georges
balliant Sonnes, whome we left trauielling from the
Queene of Armenias graue, with her vnbappy daughter
Rosana: to take reuengement for her disloyal Lord, being
the Knight of this blacke Castle, of whose vilanies you
haue heard so much of before.



The second Part of

CHAP. IX.

How Saint Georges three sonnes after their departure from the Queene of Armenias sepulcher, in companie of her Daughter Rosana, met with a Wilde-man, with whom there hapned a strange Aduenture: and after how they entered the Blacke Castle, whereas they quencht the Lamps, and awakened the seauen Champions of Christendome, after they had slept seauen dayes vppon an inchaunted bedde, with other things that chanced in the same Castle.



He budding Flowers of Chivalrie the valiant Sonnes of S. George to performe their knightly promises, & to accomplish what they had protested to Rosana at the Queene her Mothers grave, which was to deliuer her safely into the Blacke Castle, where her unkinde father had his residence. First they bought her a Pallfray of a silke colour of Spaine traynd in that Countrey, with certaine chaines and iewells that she wore about her necke and wyes, which hede was furnished with blacke Capparisons, in signe of her heauy and discontented minde, & his forehead beautified with a spangled plume of feathers.

Thus

the seven Champions.

Thus trauielled they day and night from the Confines of Armenia, with successfull fortune, till they happily arrived vpon the Island of the Blacke Castle: where they were constrained to rest themselves manie nights vnder the shadowes of greene leaued trees, where the melodie of silver tuned birds brought them to their swete sleepes: and in steede of delicate fare, they were forced to satisfie their hungers with swete Drenches and ripe Pomegranades, that grew verie plentifully in that Island. But vpon a morning, when the skies appeared in theyr lightes verie cleere and pleasant, and at such time as when the Sunne began to spread his glistering beames vpon the loftie mountaines and stately Cedars, they set forward on their iourney, hoping before the cloasing in of the Dayes bright countenance, to arrive at the Blacke Castle, being their long wisht for hauen, and desired Port. But entering into an vnkown way and narrow path not much vled, they were intercepted by a strange and wonderfull Adventure. For as they trauelled in those vntroden passages, spending the time in pleasant conference, without mistrusting of anie thing that should happen to them in that pleasant Land: vpon a sodaine (not knowing the occasion) their horses started and rose vp with their forefeet, and turned backward into the aire in such sort, that they had almost vnsaddled their Masters: whereat the valiant Knights vpon a sodaine looked round about them, to see who or what it was that caused so much feare: but when they perceiued nothing, nor could coniecture what should be the occasion of such terroz, they grew wonderfullie troubled in minde. When one began to encourage the rest, saying: Beloeue me Brethren, I muse what should bee the cause of this alteration in our horses: hath some spirit glided by vs, or lodgeth some deuill among these bushes? Whatsoeuer it be, let vs by the power and fauour of God attempt to know, and with our warlike weapons reuenge the frightening of our horses, for our mindes are vndaunted

The second Part of

daunted by the poſſeſſes of men, nor feared with the furies of devils.

These wordes being spoken with greaſe courage and maiestie, caused Rosana to smile with a cherefull countenance, and to imbolden her heart against all insuing accidents: so presently they came vnto a river which was both cleere and deepe, the which they iudged to runne quite thorow the middle of the Island: and so traueilling along by the riuers side, where within a little while their horses began againe to stagger and to be wonderfully affraide, and casting about their vigilant eyes, to see if they could perceiue what it should be that made their horses so timorous, they espyed a terrible Monster in the shape and form of a Satyre or a wilde man, which did crosse ouerthwart the Island, of a wonderfull greaſe and strange making, who was as bigge and broad as any Giant, for he was almost foure square: his face was three fote in length and had but one eye, & that was in his forehead, which glistered like vnto a blazing Comet or a fierie Planet: his body was couered all ouer with long and shagged haire, like to the impoisoned stinges of Serpents: and in his breaſte, there was as though it had bene a glasse, out of the which there seemed a great and shining light to proceed.

This Monster directed his way towards certaine Rockes of stone which stood in the Island, and by reason of the stragling and greaſe noise that the horses made, he cast his head aside and espyed the three knights traueilling in companie of the Lady: vpon whome he had no sooner cast his blazing eye, but with a deuiliſh furie he ran towards them, and in ſteed of a Club, he bare in his hand a mighty great and knotted Maple tree.

These valiant knights neuer dismaide at the sight of this deformed creature, but against his comming, they cheered vp their horses, and pricked their sides with their golden spurres, giuing a great shoute as a signe of encouragement, and withall, drawinge forth their sharpe cutting

the seven Champions.

ting swords they stood attending the furie of the Monster, who came roaring like a Bull, and discharged his knotted tree amongst the magnanimous knights, who with light leapes cleared themselves from his violent blowes, that his club fell downe to the ground with such a terrible fall, as thogh with the violence it wold haue ouerthrowne a Castle.

With that the knights presently alighted from their horses, thinking thereby more nimble to defende themselves, and with more courage to assaile the Satyre. Pa-
mie were the blowes on both sides, and dangerous the encounter, without signe of victorie inclining vnto cyther partie.

During the Battell, Rosana (through the grieve and feare that she receiued) stounded vpon her palfrey, & had fallen beside his back, if she had not first closed her hands about the pummell of the saddle: and being come a little vnto her selfe, she made her humble supplication vnto the Gods, soliciting heauen, that she might rather be buried in the Monsters bowells, thereby to satisfie hys wrath, than to see such noble knights lose the least drop of blood, or to haue the smallest haire vpon their heads diminished: such was the loue and true zeale she bore vnto these three knights.

But Sa. Georges Sonnes so manfully behaued themselves in the Encounter, bearing the promise of their fathers minde, that they made manie deepe wounds in the Monsters flesh, and such terrible gashes in his body, that all the greene grasse was couered with his blacke blood, and the ground all to besmeared & strewed with hys mangled flesh.

When the diuelish Monster felt himselfe wounded, and saw how his blood stood vpon the earth like congealed goze, he fled from them more swifter than a whirlewinde, or like vnto an arrow forced from a musket, and ran in great hast to the Rocke that stood thereby, where presently he
threw

The second Part of

thre to himselfe into a Cauer, pulling downe after him a
Roocke of stone, which did close vp the entry, the which
was done with so great lightnesse, that the Knights had
no time to strike him, but after a while when they had
blessed themselves to see such a strainge and sodaine thing
they assayed by strength to remoue the Roocke, and to
cleare the mouth of the Cauer, the which they did without
any difficulties.

Yet for all that they could not finde which way they
might enter in thereat, but like vnto Lyons fraughted
with anger, fretting and chafing, they went searching
round about the Rock to see if they could espie any entry,
and at last they found a great cliffe on the one side of the
Roocke, and looking in thereat, they espied the monster,
lying vpon the floare licking of his bleeding wounds with
his purple tongue.

And seeing him, one of the Knights said: O thou traitor
and destroyer by the high waies, O thou infernall demill
and enemy vnto the world, thou that art the deuourer of
humane flesh, and drinker of mans blood, thinke not
that this thy stronge and fast closing vp of thy selfe in this
Roocke of stone shall auayle thee, or that thy deuillish body
shall escape vndaughtered out of our handes, no, no our
blondy weapons shal be sheathed in thy detested bowels,
and rine thy damned heart asunder, and therewithall
they thrust their weapons through the clift of the Roocke,
and pearced his throat in such sorte that the monster pre-
sently dyed, the which being done they returned in try-
umph like conquerers to Rosana, where they founde her
halfe dead lying vpon her palfrie.

But when shee saue them returne in safetie like one
new risen from death, with a ioyfull and loude voice shee
said, O God how hath it pleased thy deuine maiestie, to
furnish these Knights with moze strength and prowesse,
then any other in all the world, else could they not haue
chose but haue bene overcome by this remorseles mon-
ster,

the seven Champions.

ster, which seemed to be of force to destroy kingdoms: therewithall she alighted in good state from her Palfrey, and sate her downe vnder the shadow of a Pine-tree, where the three knights likewise sate downe, & laid theyr wearie heads vpon her soft lap to sleepe, vpon whose faces she fanned a coole breathing ayre, and wiped their sweatv bzuwes with her handkercher, vsing all the means shee could to moue them contentment.

Long had they not reposed themselves vpon Rosanaes lappe, refreshing their wearie bodies with a golden sleepe, but they awaked and mounted vpon their steeles, and the next morning by bzuake of day, they approached the sight of the blacke Castle, befoze whose walles they found seauen portly steeles, seeding within a græne pasture, and by them an ancient father, bearing in his face the true picture of sorowe, and caruing in the barke of trees the subiect of all his passed griefes: this man was the olde sheapeheard which the seauen Champions of chzistendome (befoze their inchaunted steeles in the Castle) lefte without the Gates to ouerse their horses, as you heard befoze in the last Chapter.

But Saint Georges sonnes (after they had a while beheld the manner of the sheapeheards silent lamentations) demaunded the causes of his grieke and wherefoze he remayned so neere the danger of the Castle: to whose demaundes, the curteous olde man answered in this manner.

Wane Knightes (saide hee) for you seeme to be no lesse by your Princely demeanures, within this Castle remaineth a bloody tirant and a wicked homicide, called Leoger, whose tyannis and lust hath not onely rauished but murdered two of my daughters, with whome I was honozed in my yong yeares, in whose reuenge there came with me seauen chzistian knights of seauen seuerall countries, that entred this accursed Castle about seauen daies since, appointing me to stay without the gates, & to haue a vigilant

The second Part of

care of their horses, till I heard either newes of the Tyrants confusion, or their ouerthrowes: but neuer since by any meanes could I learne whether good or bad were be-
tided them.

These words strooke such a terror to their hearts, that for a time they stood speechlesse, imagining that those seauen Knights were the seauen Champions of Christendome, in whose pursutes they had traueled so many countreys. But at last when Saint Georges Sonnes had recovered their former speeches, one of them (though not intending to reueale what they imagined) sayd vnto y^e olde Shepheard: that likewise they came to bee reuenged vpon that accursed Knight, for the spoyle of a beauteous and worthie Virgine Queene, done by the said lust inflamed Tyrant.

Then the Ladie and the three Knights alighted from their horses, and likewise committed them to the keeping of the olde Shepheard: who courteously receiued them, & earnestly prayed for their prosperous proceedings. So the three Knights buckled close their armours, laced on their helmets, and put their shields vpon their armes, and in companie of Rosana they went to the Castle gate, the which glistered against the Sunne like burnisht golde: whereat hung a mightie Copper Ring, wherewith they beate so vehemently against the Gate, that it seemed to rattle like a violent tempestuous storme of thunder in the Element.

Then presently there appeared (looking out at a marble pillored window) the Magitian, newly risen from his bed, in a wrought shirt of blacke silke, and covered wth a night gown of damaske veluet: and seeing the Knights with the Ladie standing before the gate, he thus discourteously greeted them.

You Knights of strange Countreys said he, for so doth it appeare by your strange demeanours: if you desire to haue the gates opened, and your bones buried in the vaults
of

the seven Champions.

of our Castle, turne backe vnto the Jasper pillar behinde
you, and sound the silver Trumpet that hangs vpon it, so
shall your entrie be easie, but your comming sooth mira-
culous. And thereupon the Magitian left the window.

Then one of the knights went vnto the Jasper pillar,
and with a vehement breath sounded the enchanted trum-
pet as S. George did befoze, whereat the gates flew open
in like manner: wherein (without anie disturbance) they
entred: & comming into the same Court where y^e champi-
ons had fought with the Giants, they spied the enchanted
Lampes, which hung burning befoze the entrie of y^e caue
where the Champions lay vpon the enchanted bed. Un-
der the Lampes hung a silver tablet in an yron chaine, in
it was w^ritten these words following.

These fatal lamps with their enchanted lights,
In deaths sad sleep hath shut 7. christe knights
Within this caue they ly with sloth cōfounded
Whose fame but late in eury place resounded.
Except these flaming lampes extinguisht bee,
Their golden thoughts shall sleepe eternally.
A Fountaine framde by furies raisd from hell,
About whose spring doth fear & terror dwel:
No earthly vvater may suffise but this
To quench the lamp vvhere art cōmander is.
No vvight aliue this vvater may procure,
But she that is a Virgin chaste and pure.
For Nature at her birth did so dispose,
Vpon her breast to print a purple Rose.

The second Part of

These verses being perused by the three Knights, & finding them as it were contrived in the manner of a mystical Oracle, they could not imagine what they should signifie; but Rosana being singularly well conceited, and of a quick understanding, presently knewe that by her the Adventure should be finished, and therefore shee incouraged them to a forwardnes, and to seeke out the enchanted Fountaine, that by the water thereof the lamps might be quenched, and the seaven Champions deliuered out of captiuitie.

This importunate desire of Rosana, caused the three young Knights not to lose any time, but to search in euery corner of the Castle, till they had found the place wherein the Fountaine was: say as they went towards the North side of the Court, they espied another little doore standing in the wall, and when they came to it, they sawe that it was made all of verie strong yron, with a portal of Steele, and in the key hole thereof there was a brazen key, with the which they did open it, whereat presently (vnto their wonderfull amazements) they heard a verie sad and sorrowfull voyce breath forth these words following.

Let no man bee so foolish hardy, as to enter here, for it is a place of terror and confusion.

Yet for all this they entered in thereat, and would not be daunted with any ceremonious fear, but like knights of an heroicall estimation they went forward: wherein they were no sooner entred, but they saw that it was wonderfully darke, and it seemed vnto them that it should be a verie large Hall, and therein they heard verie fearefull howlings, as though there had bin a legion of belhounds, or that Plutoes Dogge had been vicergerent of that place. Yet for all this these valiant Knights did not lose any of their accustomed courage, nor would the Ladie leane their companies for any danger: but they entred in further, & took

the seven Champions.

tooke off their gauntlets from their left hands, whereon they wore meruailous great and fine Diamonds, which were set in rings, that gaue so much light, that they might plainly see all things that were in the Hall, the which was verie great and wide, and vpon the walls were painted the figures of manie furious fiends and diuells, wyth other straunge visions framed by Magicke arte, onely to terrefie the beholders. But looking verie circumspectlye about them on euerie side, they espied the enchanted fountaine standing directly in the middle of the Hall, towards which they went with their shieldes braced on theyr left armes, and their good swords charged in their hands, ready to withstand anye dangerous accident whatsoeuer should happen.

But comming to the fountaine, and offering to fill their helmets with water, there appeared befoze them a strange and terrible Griphon, which seemed to bee all of flaming fire who strooke all the three knights one after another in such sort, that they were forced to recople backe a great way: yet notwithstanding with great discretion they kept themselves vpright, & with a wonderfull lightnesse, accompanied with no lesse anger, they thre w theyr shieldes at their backes, and taking their swords in both their handes, they began most fiercely to assaile the Griphon with mortall and strong blowes. When presently there appeared befoze them a whole legion of diuels with fleshy hookes in their handes, spitting forth flames of fire, & breathing from their nostralls smoking sulphure & brimstone. In this terrible sort tormented they these three valiant knights, whose peres although they were but yong, yet with great wrath and redoubled force aduentred they themselves among this bellicerue, striking such terrible blowes, that in spite of them they came vnto y^e fountaine, and proffered to take of the water: but all in vain, for they were not onely put from it by this diuelish compaignie, but the water it selfe glided from their handes.

The second Part of

Wh in what great trauel and perplexitie these Knights remained amongst this wicked and diuallish generation, for to defend themselves that they might attaine to the finishing of this Adventure, according to their knightly promise.

But during the time of all these dangerous encounters, Rosana stood like one bereft of sense, though yet, re of the same: but at last remembryng her selfe of propheticke written in the silver tablet, the which the knights perused by the enchanted Lampes: the signification of which was, that the quenching of the lights should be accomplished by a pure Virgin, that had the liuely forme of a Rose naturally pictured vpon her bzeast: all the which Rosana knew most certainly to bee comprehended in her selfe.

Wherefore whilst they continued in their fight, she took by a helmet that was pulled from one of the Knights heads by the furious force of the Gryphon, and ranne vnto the fountaine and filled it with water, wherewith she quenched the enchanted Lampes, with as much ease, as though one had dipped a waxes torch in a mightie river of water.

This was no sooner done and finished to Rosanaes cheifest contentment, when that the heauens began to waxe dark, and the cleere skies to be ouersped with a blacke & thicke cloud, and it came with great thundrings & lightnings, and with such a terrible noyse, as though the earth would haue sunke: and the longer it indured, the more was the furie thereof, in such sort that the Gryphon with all that deluding generation of spirits vanished away, and the knights forsooke their inchanters, and fell vpon their knees, and with great humilitie they desired of God to be deliuered from the furie of that exceeding and terrible tempest.

By this sodaine alteration of the heauens, the knight of the Castle knew that the Lampes were extinguished, the

the seven Champions.

the Champions redeemed from their enchanted sleepes the Castle yelded to the pleasure of the three knights, and his owne life to the furies of their swords; except hee persued it by a sodaine flight. so presently hee departed the Castle, and secretly fled out of the Island unsuspected by any one: of whose after fortunes, miseries, and death, you shall heare moze hereafter in the course of the historie following.

The Pigromancer by his Arte likewise knew, that the Castle was yelded vnto his Enemies power, & that his charmes and magicke spells nothing preuailed: therefore he caused two ayrie spirits in the likenes of two Dragons to carrie him swiftly throughe the ayre in an Ebony Chariot.

Here we leaue him in his wicked & diuelish attempts and diuelish enterprises, which shall bee discoursed hereafter moze at large: because it appertaineth to our Historie now to speake of the seauen Champions of Christendome, that by the quenching of the Lampes were awaked from their inchauntments, wherein they had laine in obscuritie for the space of seauen dayes. For when they were risen from their sleepes, and had rowled vp theyr dyuine spirits, like men newly recovered from a trance, being ashamed of that dishonorable enterpryse, they long time gazed in each others faces, being not able to expresse their mindes, but by blushing looks, beeing the silent speakers of their extreame sorowes. But at last Saint George began to expresse the extremitie of his griefe in this manner.

What is become of you bzane Europes Champions (said he) where is now your mounted valours, that hath bin so much renowned throughe the world: what is become of your surmounting strengthes, that hath bzayed inchaunted helmets, and quailed the power of mightie multitudes: what is become of your terrible blowes, that hath subdued mountaines, beuene in sunder diamond armours, and
brought

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brought whole kindomes vnder your subiections, now I
see that all is forgotten & nothing worth, for that we haue
buried all our honours, dignities, and families in slouthfull
slumbers vpon a silken bed.

And thereupon hee fell vpon his knees, and said: thou
holy God, thou rector of the riding racks of heauen, to thee
I innocate and call, and desire thee to help vs, and doe not
permit vs to haue our families taken away for this dishonour,
but let vs meritt dignitie by our victozies, and that our
bright renowmes may ride vpon the glorious winges of
fame, whereby that babes as yet vnborne may speake
of vs, and in time to come fill whole volumes with our
princely atchivements.

These and such like reasons pronounced this discontented
Champion, till such time as the elementes cleared, and
that golden faced Phcebus glistered with splendant bright-
nes into the caue through a secret hole, which seemed in
their conceits to daunce about the vales of heauen, and to
reioyce at their happie deliueries.

In this ioyfull manner returned they vpon into the court
of the Castle, with their armors buckled fast vnto their
bodies, which had not bene embraced in seven dayes be-
fore, where they met with the three knightes comming
to salute them, and to giue them the curtesies of knight-
hood.

But when Saint George saw his Sonnes whome he
had not seene in twice two yeeres before he was so rai-
shed with ioy, that he swounded in their bosomes, and not
able to giue them his blessing, so great was the pleasure
he tooke in their sights.

Here I leaue the ioyfull græting betwixt the Father
and his Sonns, to those that knowen the secret loue of pa-
rents to their children, and what deare affection long ab-
sence breedeth.

And when they had sufficiently offended the integritie
of their soules each too other, and had at large explained
how

the seven Champions.

how many dangers every Knight and Champion had passed since their departures from England, where as they began first their intended pilgrimage to Jerusalem as you heard in the beginning of this booke, they determined to search the Castle, and to finde out Leoger with his associate the wicked inchaunter, that they might receiue due punishments for their committed offences, but they like wylie foxes were fled from the hunters traces, and had left the emptie Castle to the spoile of the Chyistian Champions: But when Rosana sawe her selfe dismissed from her purpose, and that she could not performe her mothers will, against her disloyall father, she protested by the mightie God of heauen, neuer to close vp her carefull eyes with quiet slumbers, nor neuer rest her wearie limbes in bed of Downe, but trauell by and downe the circled earth till she inioyned with her disloyall father whome as yet her eyes did neuer see. Therefore she constrained the Champions by the love and honor that knights should beare unto Ladies in distress, to graunt her libertie to depart and not to hinder her from her intended trauell.

The knights considered with themselves that this was a Lady of a deuine inspiration, borne unto some strange fortune, and one by the heauens appointment which had redeemed them from a wonderful miserie.

Therefore they condescended to her desires, and not onely gaue her leaue to depart, but furnished her with all thinges belonging to a Ladys of so byzie a minde.

First they found within the Castle an armor fit for a woman, the which the inchaunter had caused to be made by magick arte of such a singular nature that no weapon could pearce it, and so light in wearing, that it wayed no heuier then a Lions skin, it was contriued after the Amazonian fashion, plated before with silver plates, like the

The second Part of

scales of a Dolphin, and rivetted together with golden nails: so that when she had it vpon her backe, shee seemed like to Diana, hunting in the Forrests of transformed Acteon.

Likewise they found (standing in a stable at the East side of the Castle) a lustie limbed steed, big of stature, & of a verie good haire, because the halfe part forwards was of the colour of a Wolfe, and the other halfe was all black, sauing that here and there it was spotted with litle white spots: his feete were clouen, so that he needed not at anye time to be shod: his necke was somewhat long, hauing a litle head, with great eares hanging downe like a hound: his pace was with great maiestie, and he so doubled his necke, that his mouth touched his brest: there came out of his mouth two great tuskes like vnto an Elephant, and hee did exceede all horses in the world in lightnes, and vnder runne with an exceeding good grace. This likewise bestowed they vpon the Ladie, the which did more content her minde, than anye thing that ever her eye had scene before that time. Also the Christian Knights gaue her at her departure ten diamond rings, continually to wear vpon her ten fingers, in perpetuall remembrance of their curtesies.

This being done, without anye longer tarriance, but thanking them for their great kindnes shewed vnto her in distresse, she leapt into the saddle without helpe of stirrup or anye other thing, and so rode speedely awaye from their sights, as a shower of raine giuen by a violent tempest.

After her departure, the Champions remembred the olde Shepheard, whom they had almost forgotten, thorough the joy that they took in their happie meetings: he as yet remained without the Castle gates, carefully keeping their horses, whom now they caused to come in, and not onely gaue him the honour due vnto his age, but bestowed faithfully vpon him the state and government of the Castle,

the seven Champions.

Castle, with store of iewels, pearles and treasure, onely to be maintained and kept for the releefe of poore Trauailers.

This being perfourmed with their generall consents, they spent the remnant of the day in banquetting and other pleasant conference of their passed Adventures. And when that Night with her sable clowdes had ouersped the Dayes delightfull countenaunce, they betooke them to their rests: the seven Champions in a chamber that had as manie windowes as there were daies in the yere, the olde Shepheard by himselfe in a rich furnished Parlour, and Saint Georges thre Houses in the greatest Hall in the Castle.



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CHAP. X.



How after the Christian Knightes were gone to bed in the black Castle: Saint George was awaked frō his sleep in the dead time of the night, after a most fearefull manner, and likw ise how he found a Knight lying vpon a tombe, that stood ouer a flaming fire, with o-ther thynges that hapned vpon the same.



All swēte were the sleepes that he & princely minded companies took in the Castle all the first part of the night, without molestation eyther by disquiet dreames or disturbing motions of their mindes, till such time as the glistering Quene of night had runne halfe her wearie Jorney, and had spent the better part of the night: for betwixt twelue and one, being the chiefest time of feare and terroꝝ in the night, such a strainge alteration wrought in Saint Georges thought that he coulde not inioy the benefite of swēte slepe, but was

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was forced to lye broad waking like one disquieted by some sodaine feare: but as hee laye with wakefull eyes thinking vpon his passed fortunes, and numbing the minutes of the night with his cogitations, hee heard as it were a cry of night Ravens, which flew beating their fatal wings against the windows of his lodging, by which he imagined that some direfull accident were nere at hand: yet being not frighted with this fearefull noise, nor daunted with the croking of these Ravens, he lay silently not revealing it to any of the other Champions that lay in the sixe severall beds in the same chamber: but at last being betwixt waking and sleeping, hee heard as it were the voice of a sorrowfull Knight that constrained these bitter passions from his tormented soule, and they contained these words following.

Oh thou invincible knight of England, thou that art not frighted with this sorrowful dwelling, wherein thou canst see nothing but torments, rise vp I say, from thy sluggish bed & with thy vndaunted courage and strong arme, infringe the charme of my inchauntment.

And therewithall hee seemed to give a most terrible grone and so ceased: This unexpected noyse caused Saint George (without the knowledge of any of the other Champions) to arise from his bedde, and to buckle on his armor, and to search about the Castle to see if hee might finde the place that harbored the knight that made such sorrowfull lamentation.

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So going vp and downe the by coznerns of the Castle, all the latter part of the night, without finding the aduerture of this strange voice, or disturbance by any other meanes but that he was hindred from his naturall and quiet sleepe, but by the breake of day, when the darke night began to wither her sable curtaines, and to giue Aurora libertie to expayne her purple brightnesse, he entred into a fene square parloz, hunge rounde about with blacke cloth, and other mournfull habilliments, where on the one side of the same he sawe a tombe all couered likewise with blacke, and vpon it there lay a man with a pale colour, who at certaine times, gaue mosse meruelous and grieuous sighes, caused by the burning flames that proceeded from vnder the tombe, being such that it seemed that his body therewith should bee converted into coales: the flame thereof was so stincking that it made Saint George somewhat to retyze himselfe from the place where he sawe that horrible and fearefull spectacle.

He which lay vpon the tombe, casting his eyes aside, espied Saint George, and knowing him to be a humane creature, with an inflicted voyce he said: Who art thou Sir knight that art come into this place of sorrow, where nothing is heard but clamors of feare and terror?

But tell me said Saint George, who art thou, that with so much grieve dost demand of me, that which I stand in doubt to reueale to thee.

I am the King of Babilon (answered he) which without all consideration, with my cruell hand did pearce through the white and delicate brest of my beloved daughter: wee be to me and tooe vnto my soule therefore: for she at once did pay her offence by death, but I a most miserable wretch with many tormentes doe dye luying.

When this worthy Champion Saint George was about to answer him, he came forth from vnder the tombe

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tombe, a damsell who had her hayze of a yelloſe and wan colour hanging downe about her ſhoulders, and by her face ſhe ſeemed that ſhe ſhould be verie ſtrangely afflicted with tormentes, and with a ſorrowfull voyce ſhee ſaid.

Oh unfortunate Knight what doeſt thou ſeek in this infernall lodging, where cannot be giuen thee any other pleaſure, but moztall torment, and there is but one thing that can cleare thee from them, and this cannot be tolde thee by any other but by me: yet I will not expreſſe it except thou wilt graunt mee one thing that I will aſke of thee.

The Engliſh Champion that with a ſad countenance ſtood beholding of the ſorrowfull damſel, and being greatly amazed at the ſight which he had ſene, answered and ſaid: The Gods which are governours of my liberty, will doe their pleaſures, but touching the graunt of thy requeſt I neuer denied any lawfull thing to either Lady or Gentlewoman, but with all my power and ſtrength I was ready to fulfill the ſame, therefore demaunde what thy pleaſure is, ſo I am readie in all thinges that toucheth thy remedie.

And with that the damſell threw her ſelfe into that ſepulcher, and with a greivous voice ſhe ſaid. Nowe moſte curteous Knight perſorme thy promiſe: ſtrike but three ſtroakes vpon this ſafall tombe, and thou ſhalt deliuer vs from a world of mizeries, and likewise make an ende of our continuall torments.

Then the invincible knight replied in this order, whether you be humane creatures ſaid he, plac't in this ſepulcher by inchauntment, or ſuries raiſed from ſiere Acheron to worke my confuſion or no I know not, and there is ſo little truth in this infernall Caſtle, that I ſtand in doubt whether I may beleue thy words or not: but yet diſcouſe unto me the truth of all your paſſed fortunes, and by what means you were brought into this place, and as I am a true

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true Christian Knight, and one that fights in the quarrell
of Christ, I vow to accomplish whatsoeuer lyeth in my
power.

Then the Damsel began with a grievous and sorrow-
full lamentation, to declare as strange a tragedie as ever
was told. And lying in the fatall Sepulcher, vnseene of
Saint George, that stood leaning his backe agaynst the
wall to heare her discourse and lamentable Storie: with
a hollow voice like a murdered Ladie, whose bleeding
soule as yet did feele the terrible stroke at her death, shee
repeated this pittifull tale following.



CHAP.



CHAP. XI.

Of a tragicall Discourse pronounced by a Ladie in a Toombe: and how her Inchauntment vvas finished by saint George, vvith other straunge accidents that hapned to the other Christian Knights.



In famous Babylon sometimes reigned a King, although a Heathen, yet adorned vvith noble and vertuous customes, and had onely one Daughter that was verie faire, whose name was Angelica, humble, vvise, and chaste: who was beloued of a mightie Duke, & a man man wonderfull cunning in the Blacke arte. This Magitian had a seuer & graue countenance, and one that so vvisedome better deserved to gouernment than any other in the kingdome, and was verie well esteemed throughout all Babylon, almost equally vvith the king: for the vvhich there ingendred in the kings heart a secret rancour and hatred towards him. Whys Magitian cast his loue vpon the young Princesse Angelica, and it was the Gods will that shee should repaye him vvith the same affection: so that both thevv hearts being

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wounded with loue the one to the other, in such sozte that the fire kindled dayly moze and moze, and neither of them had any other imagination but onelye to loue: and not knowing how to manifest their griefes, they indured sundry great passions.

Then loue which continually seeketh occasions, did on a time set befoze this Magician a wayting maid of Angelicaes, named Fidela: the which thing seemed to be wrought by the immortall power of the Goddess Venus: oh what feare this Magitian was in to discover vnto her all his heart, and to betwray the secrets of his loueficke soule: but in the end, by the great industrie and diligence of the waighting Maid (whose name was answerable vnto her minde) there was order giuen that these two louers shuld meete together.

This faire Angelica, for that she could not at her ease enioy her true Louer, she did determine to leaue her own naturall Countrey and Father: and with this intention being one night with her Loue, she cast her armes about his necke and said.

O my sweete and welbeloued Friend, seeing that the soueraigne Gods haue been so kinde to me, as to haue my heart linked in thy breast, let me not finde in thee ingratitude, for that I cannot passe my time, except continually I enioy thy sight: and do not muse (my Lord) at these my wordes, for the entyre loue that I beare to you, dooth constrain me to make it manifest. And this beleue of a certaintie, that if thy sight be absent from me, it will be an occasion that my heart will lacke his vitall recreation, and my soule forsake his earthly habitation. You knowe (my Lord) how that the King my Father dooth beare you no good will; but doth hate you from his soule, which will be the occasion that we cannot enioy our hearts contentments: for the which I haue determined (if you thinke well thereof) to leaue both my Father and my native Countrey, and to goe and liue with you in a strange Land.

the seven Champions.

Lad. And if you denie me this, you shall verie quickly see your welbeloued Ladie without life : but I know you will not denie me it, for thereon consisteth the benefite of my welfare, and my chiefeest prosperitie. And therewithall shedding a few teares from her chrysell eyes, she held her peace.

The Magitian (as one halfe rauished with her earnest desires) answered and said.

My Loue and swaete Mistres, wherefoze haue you anie doubt that I will not fulfill and accomplish your desire in all things : therfore out of hand put all things in a readines that your pleasure is to haue done : for what moze benefite and contentment can I receaue, than to enjoy your sight continually, in such sort that neither of vs may depart from the others companie, till the fatall Decrees giue end vnto our lines. But if it so fall out that fortune frowne vpon vs, that wee bee espied and taken in our enterprize, and suffer death together, what moze glorie can there be vnto my soule, than to dye with thee, and to leaue my life betwixt thy armes : Therfore do not trouble your selfe my swaete Ladie and Mistres, but giue me leaue for to depart your presence, that I may provide all things in a readines for our departures. And so with this conclusion they tooke leaue one of the other, and departed away with as great secrecie as might possibly be deuised.

After this within a few dayes, the Magitian by hys enchantments caused a Chariot to bee made, that was gouerned by two flying Dragons into the which without being espied by anie one, they put themselves, in companie of their trustie waiting Maid : and so in great secret they departed out of the Kings Pallace, and tooke thei journey towards the Countrey of Armenia : in the which Countrey in a short time they arriued, and came without anie misfortune vnto a place whereas deepe riuers do continually strike vpon a mightie rocke, vpon the which

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Had an olde and ancient building, wherein they intended to inhabit as a most convenient place for their dwellings, whereas they might without all feare of being found, live peacefullie in loving in each others love.

Not farre from that place there was a small Village, from whence they might have necessarie provision for the maintayning of their bodies: great ioy and pleasure these two Lovers received when they founde themselves in such a place wheras they might take their ease and enjoy their loves.

The Magitian delighted in no other thing but to goe a hunting with certaine Countrie dwellers that inhabited in the next Village, leaving his sweete Angellica accompanied with her trustie Fidela in that stronge house, so in this order they lived together foure yeares, spending their daies in great pleasure: but in the end time (who neuer resteth in one degree) did take from them their rest and repayed them with sorrow and extreame miserie. For when the King her father found her missing, the sorrowe and griefe was so much that he received, that he kept his chamber a long time, and would not be comforted of anie bodie.

Foure yeares he passed away in great heavinesse, filling the Courte with Echoes of his beloved daughter, and making the skies to resound his lamentations: sorrowe was his food, salte teares his drinke, and griefe his chiefe companion.

But at last, upon a time as he sat in his Chayze lamenting her absence with great heavinesse, and being overcharged with griefe, he chaunced to fall into a troublesome dreame, for after quiet sleepe had closed up the closets of his eyes, he dreamed that he saw his daughter standing upon a Roche by the sea side, offering to cast her body into the waues befoze she would returne to Babylon, and that he beheld her Loner with an Armye of watyzs and wilde men ready furnished with habiliments of warre to pull

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pull him from his Throne, and to depriue him of hys Kingdome.

Out of this vision he presently started from his chaire, as though it had been one frighted with a legion of spirits, and caused foure of the chiefeſt Peeres of his Land to bee ſent for, to whom he committed the gouernement of hys Countrey: certefying them that he intended a voyage to the Sepulcher at Memphis, thereby to qualifie the furie of his Daughters gholt, whom he dreamed to be drowned in the ſeas, and that except he ſought by true ſubmiſſion to appeaſe the angrie heauens, whom hee had offended by his vnnaturall ſorowes, hee ſhould be deposed from hys Kingdome.

None could withſtand him from this determination, though it was to the prejudice of his whole Land, therefore within twentie dayes he furniſhed himſelfe with all neceſſaries as well of armour and martiall furniture, as of golde and treaſure, and ſo departed from Babylon privately and alone, not ſuffering anie other (though many deſired it humbly, and were verie earneſt) to beare hym companie.

But he trauelled not as he told his Lords after any ceremonious order, but like a bloud-hound ſerching Countrey after Countrey, Nation by Nation, and Kingdome by Kingdome, that after a barbarous manner hee might be reuenged vpon his Daughter for her diſobedience. And as he trauelled, there was no caue, den, wood nor wilderneſſe, but he furiously entered, and diligently ſearched for his Angelica.

At laſt by ſtrange fortune he happened into Armenia, nere vnto the place whereas his Daughter had her reſidence: where, after he had intelligence by the Commons of that Countrey, that ſhe remained in an olde rupnated Building on the top of a rocke nere at hand, without any more tariaunce hee trauelled vnto that place, at ſuch a time as y^e Magitian her louing Husband was gone about
his

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his accustomed hunting: where comming to the gate and finding it lockt, hee knockt thereat so furiously, that hee made the noyse to resound all the house ouer, with a rebounding Echo.

When Angelica heard one knocke, she came vnto the gate and with all speed did open it. And when she thought to embrace him, thinking it to be her Louer, she saw that it was her Father, and with a sodain alteration she gaue a great shrike, and ran with all the speed she could backe into the house.

The King her Father being somewhat angrie, like a furious Lion followed her, saying: It dooth little auayle thee Angelica to run away, for that thou shalt dye by thys renengefull hand, paying me with thy death the great dishonour that my royall crowne hath now by thy flight receaued.

So he followed her till he came to the chamber where her waiting Maid Fidela was, who likewise presentlye knew the King: vpon whose wrathfull countenance appeared the image of pale death, and fearing the harme that should happen vnto her Ladie, she put her selfe ouer her bodie, and gaue most terrible, lowd, and lamentable shrikes.

The King as one kindled in wrath, and forgetting the naturall loue of a Father towards his Childe, hee laid hand vpon his sword, and said: It dooth not profite thee Angelica to flee from thy death: for thy desert is such, that thou canst not escape from it: for heere mine owne arme shall be the killer of mine owne flesh: and I vnaturally hate that, which Nature it selfe commaundeth me respectly to loue.

When Angelica with a countenance more red than scarlet, answered and said: Ah my Lord and Father, wil you be now as cruell vnto me, as you had wont to be kind and pittifull: appease your wrath, and withhold your vnmerefull sword, and hearken vnto this which I saye in

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In discharging my selfe in that you charge mee wthall ,
you shall vnderstand my Lord and father, that I was o-
uercome and constrained by loue for to loue, forgetting all
fatherly loue and my dutie towards your Maestie: yet
for all that, hauing power to accomplish the same, it was
not to your dishonour in that I line honozable with my
husband: then the King (with a visage fraught with ter-
rible ire) more liker a dragon in the woods of Herkania
then a man of meeke nature, answered and said:

Thou viperous bzat, degenerate from natures kinde,
thou wicked Traitor to thy generation, what reason hast
thou to make this false excuse, when as thou hast commit-
ted a crime that deserues more punishment then humaine
nature can inflict: and in saying these wordes, he lift vp
his sword, intending to strike her vnto the harte and to
bathe his weapon in his owne daughters blood, whereat
Fidela being present, gaue a terrible shrike and thze w her
selfe vpon the body of unhappy Angelica, offering her ten-
der bzest to the furie of his sharpe cutting sword onely to
set at libertie her deere Lady and Mistress.

But when the furious King sawe her in this sorte
make her defence, he pulled her off oy the haire of the hed,
offring to trample her delicate body vnder his fete, there-
by to make a way that he might execute his determined
purpose without resistance of any.

Fidela when she sawe the King determined to kill his
daughter, like vnto a Lynesse she hung about his necke,
and said: thou monstrous murtherer, more crueller then
mad dogs in Egypt, why dost thou determine to slaughter
the molte chaste and loyallest Ladye in the worlde: euen
she within whose lappe vntamed Lyons will come and
leepe?

Thou arte thy selfe (I say) the occasion of all this
euill, and thyne onely is the faulte, for that thy selfe wert
so malicious and so full of mischief, that thee durst not let
thee vnderstand of her sodaine loue.

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These wordes and teares of Fidela did little profite to mollifie the Kings heart, but rather like a wyld Beare in the Wilddernes beeing compassed about with a companie of Dogges, doth shake his members: euen so did thys King shake himselfe, and threwe Fidela from him in such sort, that he had almost dasht her byaines against the chamber walls, and with double wrath hee did procure to execute his furie. Yet for all this, Fidela with terrible shrikes sought to hinder him, till such time as with his cruel hand he thrust the point of his sword in at her bzeast, so that it appeared forth at her backe, whereby her soule was forced to leane her terrestriall habitation, and flye into Paradise to those blessed soules, which dyed for true lous sake.

Thus this unhappie Angelica, when shee was most at quiet, and content with her prosperous life, then Fortune turned her vnconstant Wheele, and cast her from a glorious delight to a sobaine death.

The yrefull King, when he beheld his daughters blood sprinkled about the chamber, and that by his own hands it was committed, he repented himselfe of the dedde, and accursed the bowter wherein y first motion of such a crime entered into his minde, wishing the hand that did it euer after might be lame, and the heart that did contriue it to be plagued with more extremities, than was miserable Oedipus: as to be terrified with her ghastly spirit, as was the Macedonian Alexander with Clitus shadow, whom he causeles murdered.

In this manner the vnforsunate King repented hys Daughters bloodie Tragedie, with this determination, not to stay till the Magitian returned from his Hunters exercise, but to exclude himselfe from the companie of all men, & to spend the remnant of his loathsome life among vntamed beasts in some wilde wilddernes. Upon this resolution he departed the chamber, and withall said: Farewell thou liuesse bodie of my Angelica, and may thy blood
which

the seuen Champions.

which I haue spilt, craue vengeance of the Gods against my guiltie soule, for my earthly bodie shall indure a miserable punishment. Likewise at his departure he wrot vpon y^e chamber wals these verses following in his daughters blood.

For now to hills, to dales, to rockes, to caues I gee,
To spend my dayes in shameful sorrow, griefe & woe.

Fidela (after the departure of the King) vsed such violent fury against her selfe, both by rending the golden trammelles of her hayze, and tearing her Rosie coloured face with her furious nayles, that shee rather seemed an infernall Furie subiect to wrath, than an earthly creature furnished with clemencie.

She sat ouer Angelicaes bodie, wiping her bleeding wounds with a damaske scarffe, which shee pulled from her waiste, and bathing her dead bodie in luke-warme tears, which forcibly ranne downe from her eyes like an ouerflowing Fountaine.

In this wofull manner spent y^e sorrowfull Fidela that unhappie day, till bright Phcebus went into the western seas: at which time the Magitian returned from his accustomed hunting, and finding the doore open, he entered into Angelicaes chamber, where when he found her bodie weltring in congealed blood, and beheld how Fidela sate weeping ouer her bleeding wounds, he cursed himselfe, for that he accompted his negligence y^e occasion of her death, in that he had not left her in more safetie. But when Fidela had certefied him, how that by the hands of her owne Father she was slaughtered, he began like a franticke tyrant to rage against heauen and earth, and to fill the ayre with terrible exclamations.

O cruell murderer (said he) crept from the womb of some vntamed Tyger: I wilbe so reuenged vpon thee, O vnnaturall king, that all ages shal wonder at thy misery.

The second Part of

And likewise thou unhappie Virgin, shalt indure like punishment, in that thy accursed tongue hath bruted this fall deed vnto my eares: the one for committing the crime and the other for reporting it. For I will cast such deserved vengeance vpon your heads, and place your bodies in such continuall torments, that you shall lament my Ladies death, leauing aline the fame of her with your lamentations.

And in saying these words, he drew a Booke out of his bosome, and in reading certaine charmes and Inchauntments that was therein contained, he made a great & be- ris blacke clowde appeare in the skies, which was brought by terrible and hazzie windes, in the which he took them vp both, and brought them into this inchaunted Castle, where euer since they haue remained in this Tombe, cruelly tormented with vnquenchable fire: and must eternally continue in the same extremitie, except some courteous Knight will vouchsafe to giue but thre blowes vpon the Tombe, and breake the inchauntment.

Thus haue you heard you magnanimous Knights, the true discourse of my unhappie fortunes. For the virgine which for the true loue she bore vnto her Ladie was committed to this torment is my selfe: and this pale body lying vpon the Tombe, is the unhappie Babylonian King which vnnaturally murdered his owne Daughter: and the Pagitian which committed all these villanies, is that accursed wretch, which by his charmes and diuellish Enchauntments hath so strangely withstood your valiant encounters.

These words were no sooner finished, but Sa. George drew out his sharpe cutting sword, and gaue thre blowes vpon the inchaunted Tombe, whereat presently appeared the Babylonian King standing before him, attyred in rich robes, with an Emperiall Diadem vpon his head: & the Ladie standing by him, with a countenance more beautifull than the Damaske Rose.

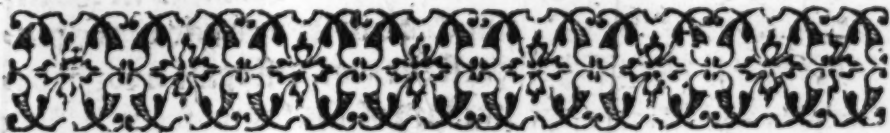
When

the seven Champions.

When Saint George beheld them, he was not able to speake for ioy, nor to utter his minde, so exceeding was the pleasure that he tooke in their sights. So without anie long circumstance, he tooke them betwixt both his hands, and led them into the chamber, whereas hee found the other knights newly risen from their beds. To whom hee reuealed the true discourse of the passed Adventure, and by what meanes he redeemed the King and the Lady from their inchauntments: which to them was as great ioye, as before it was to Saint George.

So, after they had for some fixe dayes refreshed themselves in the castle, they generally intended to accompany the Babilonian King into his Countrey, and to place him againe in his Regiment.

In which trauele we will leaue the Christian knights to the conduction of Fortune, and returne againe vnto Rosana, whom (as you heard before) departed from the Castle in the pursute of her disloyal father: of whose strange accidents shall be spoken in this following Chapter.



The second Part of



CHAP. XII.

How the Knight of the Blacke Castle after the conquest of the same by the christian champions, wandred vp and downe the vworld in great terror of conscience, and after howv he was found in a wood by his own daughter, in whose presence he desperately slew himselfe, with other accidents that after hapned.



And so well remember when that that the Christian champions had slaine the seven Giants in the enchanted castle, and had made conquest thereof, disloyall Leoger being lord of the same, secretly fled: not for aunte anger of the losse, but for the preservation of his life. So in great græfe and terror of conscience he wandred like a fugitive vp and downe y^e world: sometimes remembryng of his passed prosperitie, other times thinking vpon the rapes he had committed, how disloyally in former times he had left the Quene of Armenia big with Childe, bearing in her wombe the staine of her

the seven Champions.

her honour, and the confusion of his reputation. Sometime his guiltie minde imagined, that the bleeding ghosts of the two Sisters (whom he both rauished and murdered) followed him vp and downe, haunting his ghost with fearfull exclamations, and filling each corner of the earth with clamours of reuengement.

Such feare and terrour raged in his soule, that he thought all places where he trauelled, were filled with multitudes of knights, and that the strength of Countries pursued him, to heape vengeance vpon his guiltie head for those wronged Ladies.

Whereby hee cursed the hower of his birth, and blamed the cause of his creation, wishing the Heauens to consume his bodie with a flashe of fire, or that the earth would gape and swallowe him: In this manner trauelled he vp and downe, filling all places with Echoes of his sorowes and grieffe, which brought him into such a perplexitie, that many times hee would haue slaine himselfe, and haue ridde his wretched soule from a worlde of miseries.

But it happened that one morning very early, by the first light of Titans golden toarch, he entred into a narrow and straight path, which conducted him into a very thicke and solitarie Forrest, wherein with much sorowe he trauelled till suche time as glistering Phoebus had passed the halfe parte of his iorney.

And beeing wearye with the longe waye, and the greate waighte of his Armour, hee was forced to take some rest and ease vnder certaine freshe and greene Myrtle trees, whose leaues did bathe themselves in a faire and cleare Fountaine, whose streame made a bubling murmure on the pebble.

Being set, he began a newe to haue in remembrance his former committed cruelty, and complaining of Fortune he published his great grieffe, and although he was weary of complaining, and seeing himselfe without all remedy, he

The second Part of

he resolved like unto the Swan to sing a while before his death: and so thinking to give some ease unto his tormented heart, he warbled forth these verses following.

Mournfull Melpomine approach with speed,
and shew thy sacred face with teares besprēt:
Let all thy sisters harts vvith sorrow bleed
To heare my plaints and rufull discontent.
And vvith your moanes sweet Muses all assift
My vvailfull song, that doth on vvoe consist.

And then I may at large paint out my paine,
Within these desert groues and vvildernesse:
And after I haue ended to complaine,
They may record my vvoes and deep distres:
Except these myrtle trees relentles bee,
They vvill vvith sobs assift the sighes of mee.

Time vveares out life, it is reported so,
And so it may I vvill it not denie:
Yet haue I tride long time, & this do knowve,
Time giues no ende to this my miserie.
But rather fortune, time and heauens agree,
To plague my hart vvith vvoe eternally.

ye siluan nimphs that in thes wods do shroud
To you my mournfull sorrowes I declare:

You

the seven Champions.

You savage satyrs let your eares be bound
to heare my woe, your sacred selues prepare:
Trees, herbs & flowrs, in rural fields that groe,
While thus I morne, do you some silence sho.

Sweet Philomel cease thou thy songs a vvhile
And vvill thy mate their melodies to leaue:
And all at once attend my mournfull stile,
vvhich vvil of mirth yor sugred notes bereaue
If you desire the burthen of my Song:
I sigh and sob, for Ladies I did vvrong.

You furious Beasts that feed on montains hye,
And restlesse run with rage your pray to find:
Dravve nere to him vvhole brutish crueltye
Hath cropt the bud of Virgins chaste & kind.
This onely thing yet rests to comfort mee:
Repentance comes a while before I dye.

Since heauens agree for to increase my care,
What hope haue I for to enioy delight?
Sith fates and fortune do themselues prepare,
To vvork against my soule their full despight.
I know no meanes to yild my hart reliefe:
But only death, which can desolue my griefe.

The second Part of

I muse and may my sorrowes bring such,
That my poore hart can longer life sustaine:
Sith dayly I doe find my grieve so much,
As every day I feele a dying paine.
But yet alas I live afflicted still:
And have no helpe to heale me of my ill.

When as I thinke vpon my pleasures past,
Now turned to paine, it makes me rue my state
And since my ioy vvith vvoe is ouercast,
O death giue ende to my vnhappy fate.
For onely death will lasting life prouide:
Where liuing thus, I sundry deathes abide.

Wherefore all you that hear my mornful song
And tasted haue the grieve that I sustaine:
All lustfull traishers that haue done vvrong,
With teare-fild eyes assist me to complaine.
All that haue being, doe my being hate:
Crying haste, haste, this vvretches dying state

His sorrowfull song being done, he laie himselfe all
along vpon the greene grasse closing by the closets of his
eyes, in hope to repose him selfe in a quiet sleepe, and to a
bandon all discontented thoughts: In which silent content-
plation he will leaue him for a while, and returne to Ro-
sing

the seven Champions.

Thus the Damaris daughter of Armenia that bolde Amazonian Lady, whome you remember likewise departed from the blacke Castle (clad with enchanted armour) in the pursue of her disloyall father, to whome she neuer in her life beheld: this courteous Lady (to performe her mothers will) travelled vp and downe strange countries, many a weare stop, yet neuer could she meet with her vnkind father, vnto whome she was commaunded to giue her mothers letter, neither could she beare in any place where, soeuer she came, where shee might goe to seeke him: In which trauell shee met with many strange adventures, the which with great hono^r to her name she finished, yet for all this she wandred ouer hills and dales: mountaines and vallies, and through many solitary woods. But at last she hapned by fortune into the wildernesse, whereas this discontented knight laye sleeping vpon the greene grasse, nere to which place she likewise reposed her selfe vnder the branches of a Chesnut tree, desiring to take some rest after her long traue^l.

But vpon a sodaine being betwixt waking and sleeping, she heard towards her left hand, a verie dolorous grone, as it were of some sorrowfull knight, which was so terrible, heauie, and bitter, that it made her to giue an attentive eare vnto the sounde, and to see if shee could heare and vnderstande what it should be.

So with making the least noyse that shee could possibly, she arose vp and went towards the place whereas shee might see what it was, and there shee beheld a knight very well armed, lying vpon the greene grasse, vnder certaine sayre and greene myrtle trees, his armour was all russet, and full of barres of blacke Steele, which seemed to bee a very sadde, sorrowfull and heauie man, agreeing to the inward sadnesse of his heart.

Shee was somewhat of a bigge Nature of bodie, and

The second Part of

well proportioned, and there moved by his disposition, to be in his heart great griefe, where after shee had a while stood in secret beholding his sorrowfull countenance, in a wefull manner hee tumbled his restless bodie vpon the groue grasse, and with a sad and heauy looke he breathed forth this ruefull lamentation.

O huge and peruerse Fortune (saide he) why dost thou consent that so wilde and euill a wretch shoulde breathe so long vpon the earth, vpon whose wicked head the golden Sun disdaines to shine, and the glistering Elementes denyes their chearfull lightes?

O that some ravenous Harpye would welter from his denne, and make his loathsome beluelles my fatall Tomb, or that my eyes were lightes like the miserable King of Thebes, that I neuer might againe beholde this earth, whereon I haue long liued and committed many cruelties.

I am confounded with the iurise of heauen for wronging that Payden Quene of Armenia, in the spoyle of whose Virginitie I made a triumphant conquest.

O Leoger Leoger, what huge disaduaunce thou hast committed so great a sinne, in leaving her stained with thy lust, and dishonoured by thy disloyaltie.

O cruell and without faith, thou wert nurst with the unkinde milke of Nigera, and bayne into the world for thine steepe torment: where was thy vnderstanding when thou forsakst that gracious Princeesse? who was not only yelmen to thy her libertie, Iama and honour, but therewith a Kingdom and a golden Diademe, and therewith thou wast made Kraytor, and more loath vpon my soule then there be bayes vpon my head, but may the sorrow of oine Priam be my eternall punishment.

What doth it profite me to fill the ayre with lamentations, when that the crime is already past, without all remedies or hope of comforte? this being said, he gaue a grieuous and terrible sigh, and so held his peace.

Rosana

the seven Champions.

Rosana by those heauye and sorrowfull lamentations, together with his reasons which shee heard, knewe him to bee her disloyall Father after whom shee had so long travelled to finde out: but when shee remembred how that his unkinde death was the death of her mother, her harte intured such extreame paine and sorrowe, that she was constrained (without anye feeling) to fall doونه to the ground.

But yet her couragious harte would not remaine long in that passion: but straight waies shee rose vp againe on her feete, with a desire to perfoyme her mothers will, but yet not intending to discover her name, nor to reueale vnto him that shee was his daughter: so with this thought and determination, shee went vnto the place where Leoger was, who when he heard the noyes of her coming, straightway started vpon his feete.

Then Rosana did salute him with a voyce some what heauye, and Leoger did returne his salutation with no lesse shewe of griefe.

Then the Amazonian Lady tooke forth the letter from her naked breste, where as so longe time shee had kept it, and in deliuering it into his handes, shee said:

Is it possible that thou art that forgetfull and disloyall Knight, the which left the unfortunate Queene of Armenia (with so great paine and sorrowe) big with Child amongste those vniuersall Tyrantes her Countreymen, which banished her out of her Countreie in reuenge of the committed crime, where ouer since shee hath bene compassed with wilde beastes that in their naturall hath lamented her banishment.

Leoger when he heard her to say these words began to beholde her, and although his eyes were all to be blubbered and weary of weeping, yet he most earnestly gazed in her face and answered her in this manner.

I will not denye thee gentle Amazon (said he) that which the high heauens doo complaine off and the lowe earth

The second Part of

earth doth mourne for. Whom shalt understand that I am
the same knight, whom thou hast demanded after, tell
mee therefore what is thy will.

His will is said she, thou most ungrateful knight, that
thou read here this Letter, the last worke of the white
hand of the unhappy Armenian Queene.

At which words, the knight was so troubled in thought
and grieved in minde, that it was almost the occasion to
dissolve his soule from his bodie: and there withal putting
forth his hand some what trembling, he took the Letter, &
set him verie sorrowfully downe upon the greene grasse:
without any power to the contrarye; his griefe so abound-
ed the bounds of reason.

So foner wold he open the letter, but he presently knew
it to be written by the hands of his wronged Ladie the Ar-
menian Queene, who with great alteration both of hart &
minde, he read the sorrowfull lines, the which contayned
these words following.



The Queene of Armenia her Letter.



Other thou disloyall knight of the
Blacks Castle, the unfortunate
Queene of Armenia, can neither
send nor wish salutations: for ha-
ving no health my selfe, I cannot
send it unto him, whose cruel mind
hath quite forgotten my true love,
I cannot but lament continuallye
and complain unto the Gods ince-
santly,

the seven Champions.

restantly, considering that my fortune is converted from
a crowned Queene to a miserable and banished captiue;
where the sauage beasts are my chiefe companions, & the
mournfull birds my best solliciters. Oh Leoger, Leoger,
why didst thou leaue me comfortlesse without all cause, as
did Aeneas his unfortunate Dido? what second loue hath
bereaued me of thy sight, and made thee forget her, that e-
uer shall remember thee. Oh Leoger, remember the day
when first I saw thy face, which day bee fatalle eternore,
and counted for a dismal day in time to come, both heauy,
blacke, and full of foule mischances, for it was unhappie
vnto me: for in giuing thee ioy, I bereaued my selfe of all,
and lost the possession of my libertie and honour: although
thou hast not esteemed nor took care of my sorrowfull sor-
tunes, yet thou shouldst not haue mockt my perfect loue,
and disoained the seruent affeccion that I haue borne thee,
in that I haue yelded to thee that precious ie well, by which
hath been denied to make a noble King. Oh Loue, cruel
and spitefull Loue, that so quickly didst make mee blinde,
and depriuedst mee of the knowledge that belonged vnto
my royall Highnesse.

Oh encurteous Knight, heeing blinded with thy loue
the Queene of Armenia denied her honestie which shee
ought to haue kept, and preserved it from the biting can-
ker of disloyall leue: Hadst thou pretended to mocke me,
thou shouldst not haue suffered me to haue lost so much as is
forgone for thy sake.

Tell me, why didst not thou suffer mee to execute my
will, that I might haue opened my white brest with a
pearing sword, and sent my soule to the shady banke of
sweete Elizium? When had it bene better for me to haue
died, than to liue still, and dayly die.

Remember thy selfe Leoger, and behold the harme that
will come hereof: haue thou a care vnto the patron which
thou leftst sealed in my wombe, and let it bee an occasion
that thou dost (after all thy violent wronges) retourn
to

The second Part of

to lie me sleeping in my tombe, that my childe may not remaine fatherlesse in the power of wilde beastes, whose hearts be fraughted with nothing but with crueltie. Doe not consent that this perillous love which I beare thee, should be counted haire, but rather performe the promise the which thou hast denied me.

O unkinde Leager, O cruell and hard heart, is al, choode the firme love that so faintly thou dost professe: what is he that hath bene more unmercifull then thou hast bene? There is no furious beast nor lurking Lion in the deserts of Libia, whose unmercifull pawes are all besmeared in blood, that is so cruell harted as thy self, els wouldst thou not leave me compassles, spending my dayes in solitarie woods, where as the Tigers mourne at my distresses, and chiering birds in their kindes; grieve at my lamentations: the unreasonable torments and sorowes of my soule are so many, that if my penne were made of Lidian Scale, and my quill the purple Ocean, yet could not I write the number of woes.

But now I determine to advertise this of my desired death, say in writing this my lastest testament, the fates are cutting a sunder my thred of life, and I can give thee knowledge of no more. but yet I desire thee by the true love which I beare thee, that thou wilt read with some secrets these few lines: and heere of the powers of heauen, I do desire that thou wilt give the like death that I do now give. And so I close.

By her vvhich did yeeld vnto thee her
life, Loue, Honor, Fame
and Liberty.

Alphon

the seven Champions.

When this sad and heauie knight had made an end of reading this dolorous letter, hee could not reſtraine his eyes from diſtilling ſalte teares, ſo great was the griefe that his hart ſuſtained: Roſana did like wiſe beare him company to ſolemnize his heauines, with as many teares trickling from the Conduite of her eyes.

The greates ſorrowe and lamentation was ſuch and ſo much in both their hartes, that in a great ſpace the one coulde not ſpeake vnto the other: but afterwarde, their griefes being ſomewhat appeaſed, Leoger began to ſay.

Oy Challenger, from her with the remembrance of whoſe wronge my ſoule is wounded, being vnderſeruedly of me euill rewarded: tell me (euen by the nature of true loue) if thou doſt knowe where ſhe is: ſhowe vnto me her abiding place, that I may goe thither and giue a diſcharge of this my great fault, by yielding vnto death.

Oy cruell and without loue (anſwered Roſana) what diſcharge canſt thou giue vnto her, that already (thorow thy crueltie) is dead and buried: onely by the occaſion of ſuch a ſorſworne knight.

This penitent and payned knight, when he vnderſtood the certaintie of her death, with a ſouaine and baſtie ſurge he ſtrooke him ſelfe on the head with his ſitt, and liſting his eyes vnto the heauens, in manner of exclamation againſt the Gods, giuing deepe and ſorrowfull ſighes, he thruwe him ſelfe to the ground, tumbling and wallowing from the one part vnto the other, without taking any eaſe, or hauing anye power or ſtrength to declare his inward griefe which at that time he felt, but with lamentations which did torment his hart, he called continually on the Armenian Queen, and in that deuiliſh ſurge wherein he was, drew out his dagger and liſting vp the ſkirt of his ſhirt of mail, he thruſt it into his body, and giuing himſelfe this vnhappy death (with calling vpon his wretched Lady, he finiſhed his life, and fell to the ground.

The second Part of

This sad and beanie Ladie when she beheld him to de-
 sperately to geaue his martiall breast, and to fall liuelesse
 to the earth she greatly repented her selfe that she had not
 discouered her name, and reuelled to him how that shee
 was his vnfortunate Daughter, whose face before that
 time he neuer had beheld, and as a Lion (though all too
 late) who seeing before her eyes her yong Lion her cruel in-
 treated of the Quater, euen so she ran vnto her wretched
 father, and with great speed pulled off his helme fro
 his wounded head, and vnbraided his armour, the which
 was in colour according to his nation, but as bright as a
 nic Diamond, made by suchlike arte. Also shee had a
 map his shield, which was of a russet field, and in the mid-
 dle thereof was portrayed the God of Iloue with two fa-
 ces, the one was herie faire, and bound about with a cloth
 his eyes, and the other was made meruailous fierce and
 furious.

This being done, with a faire linnen cloth shee wipped
 off the blood from his mortall face. And when she was cer-
 taine that it was him after whom she had traueled so ma-
 nie wearie steps, and that he was without life, with a fu-
 rious mannes she tore her attire from her head, and abso-
 rent her golden haire, tearing it in peeces, and then re-
 turned again and bowed that infernall face making such
 sorrowfull lamentation, that whosoever had seene her
 would haue been moued to compassion. When shee took
 his head betwixt her hands, purposing to lift it vp, and to
 lay it vpon her lap, and seeing for al this that there was no
 moving in him, shee topped her face vnto his pale and dead
 cheeke, and with sorrowfull words she said.

Deare father, open thine eyes, and behold me, euen
 thine sweete father, and looke vpon mee this sorrowfull
 Daughter, if fortune be so fauourable, let mee receiue some
 contentment, whilst life remaineth. O father, the
 will to looke vpon me, wherein such delight was wont to
 be, that we may either accompany other, or else be alone

the French Champions.

shelly father, saying that in former times my unfortunate
 father a traye was not sufficient to reclaim thee, and
 was satisfactorie for thy great trauell which hath been taken
 in seeking thee, and thou now in death, and lay in the
 sight of thy unhappie Daughter, and dye not without see-
 ing her, and opening eyes, that she may graesse thee in dy-
 ing with this going in. *His father then began to weep, and
 with his hand he said, Rosana began again to wipe his face,*
 for that was an all to be bathed in blood, and with her
 hands she felt his eyes and mouth, and all his face
 and head. All such time as she touched his breast, and put
 her hand on the wound where she held it fast, and
 looked upon him whether he moved or no. But when she
 felt him by both sense or feeling, she began again to com-
 playne, and crying out with most terrible exclamations,
 she said.

*Oh my haplesse father, how manie troubles & great
 trauels hath thy Daughter passed in seeking thee, water
 sing the earth with her teares, and all dayes in paine cal-
 ling for thee? Oh how many times in naming thy name
 hath she been answered with an Echo, which was unto
 her great dolour and grieve: and now that fortune hath
 brought her where thou art, to reioice herselfe in thy pre-
 sence, the same fortune hath converted her withen into
 grieve and dolor. Oh cruell and unconstant Queen of
 Chance, hath Rosana deserued this, to bee most afflicted
 when she expected most joy. Oh Lenger if ever thou wilt
 open thine eyes now open them, or let the glasses of my
 eyes be close eternally.*

Herewith she perceined his dim eyes to open, and his
 senses now a little gathered together: and when he saw
 himselfe in her armes, and understood by her words, that
 she was his Daughter whom hee had by the unfortunate
 Queen of Arragon, he suddenly streue against weaknes,
 and at last recovering some strength, he cast his pelding
 armes about the milke white necke of the faire Rosana,

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and they looked their faces the one to the other, distilling betwixt them many salt and bitter teares, in such sort that it would haue moued the coldest hearts vnto compassion: and with a feeble and weak voice, the wounded knight said:

O my daughter, unfortunate by my disloyaltie, let me recreate and comforte my selfe, in enioying this thy month the time that I shall remaine aliue, and before my kille will both departe the company of my dying bodie: I do confesse that I haue bene pittifull vnto thy mother and vnkinde to thee, in making thee to trauell with great sorow in seeking me, and now thou hast found me: I must leaue thee alone in this sorrowfull place with my dead body pale and wanne: yet before my death sweete girl giue me a thousand kisses: this onely delighte I craue, for the little time I haue to carrie, and afterward I desire thee to intombe my bodie in thy mothers graue though it be far in distance from this vallicke Country.

O my deare Lord answered she, wilt thou request of me to giue thy bodie a Sepulcher? well I see that it is requisite, to seeke some to giue it vnto as both, for I knowe my life can not continue longe, if the angry fates depriue me of your liuing company: and without strength to proceed any further in speeches, she kissed his face with great sobbing and sighes, making within her selfe a terrible con- fition, saying for the answer of her dying Father, who with no lesse paine and anguish of death, said:

O my Child, how happy should I be, that thus im- bracing one in the others armes, we might depart toge- ther: then should I be ioyfull in thy company, and account my selfe happy in my death: and here vpon I leaue thee vnto the world: daughter far well, the Gods preserve thee and take me to their mercies. And when he had said these wordes, he enclined his necke vpon the face of Rosana and dyed.

When this sorrowfull Ladye sawe that the soule had got

the fourth Champions.

got the victorie and departed from the body, she kissed his pale lippes and giuing deepe and dolorous sighes, she beganne a mervallous and heauy lamentation, calling her selfe unhappie and vnfortunate, and layde her selfe vpon the dead body, cursing her destinies, so that it was lamentable to heare.

My deere father sayd she, what small benefitte haue I receiued for all my trouble and paine, the while I haue suffered in seeking of thee, and now in the finding of thee the more is my griefe, so that I came to see thee dye? Oh most unhappie that I am, where was my minde when I saw that fatal dagger pearce thy tender brest? whereon was my thought? wherefore did I stand still, and did not with great lightnes make resistance against that terrible blow?

If my strength would not haue serued me, yet at the least I should haue borne thee company: you furious creatures that are bin in your rage and deepe rage, where are you now? why doe you not come and take pittie vpon my griefe in taking away my life? in doing so you shew your selues pittifull, for that I doe abhorre this dolorous life, yet she did not forget the promise that shee made him, which was to giue his body buriall in her mothers tombe. This was the occasion, that shee did somewhat cease her lamentation, and taking vnto her selfe more courage then her sorrowfull griefe would consent vnto, she put the dead body vnder a mightie pine Apple tree, and covered it with leaues of greene grasse, and his bodye hung his arme vpon the boughes, in hope that the sight thereof would cause some aduenturous knight to approach her presence, that in kindenes would assist her to intombe him: here we will leaue Rosana weeping ouer her fathers body, and speake of the Nigromancer after his flight from the black Castle.

The second Part of the

and which yet, good old man departed from the body, the which
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How the Magician found Leopers armour
 hanging upon a pipe tree kept by Roline the
 Queens Daughter of Armenia, who bewitched

whome happened a terrible battle; also of the
 desperate death of the Lady and how
 the Magician framed by Magick arte an

enchanted Sepulcher wherein he enclosed him-
 selfe from the sight of all humane creatures,

and which yet, good old man departed from the body, the which
 and which yet, good old man departed from the body, the which
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 and which yet, good old man departed from the body, the which
 and which yet, good old man departed from the body, the which



Come you we remember
 when the Christian knights had
 conquered the black castle which
 was kept by enchantment, how

the furious Nigromancer to pre-
 serve his life fled from the same,
 called by his utter tongue the ayre

in an yron chariot, drawn by
 two living Dragons: in which
 chariot he travelled over many parts and plaines

of the easterne climates.
 At last being wearie of his journey, he put himself in the
 thickest of the Forrest, wherein traveling in his whirling

PAHS

the Cruell Chempion.

Dragons, hee neuer rested till he came into a mightie
 and great river: the which seemed to be an arm of the
 purple Ocean, there he alight from his chariot for to re-
 fresh himselfe, and for to enter, with his hands, and
 drinke thereof, and washed his face: and as he found him
 selfe all alone, there came into his mind many thoughts,
 amongst all his wretched life: and how hee was banquished
 by the chaste knight, for which hee felt great anger he
 gave terrible curses and began to curse, not only the doo-
 ing of his birth, but the whole world, and the generation
 of mankind: and in such sad, sorrowfull and dolefull
 manner, hee remembered the great sorrow and travail
 that ever since hee endured: and what toyle travelling
 hee had endured in these horrible cogitations spent
 he the time away till golden Hesperus began to bathe
 himselfe into his accustomed lodging, and turning his sight
 in the occidental parts, and looking out into the darke
 and terrible night, which was the occasion that his
 mind did thus trouble him: at that night hee passed away
 with such sorrowfull lamentations for his late disgraces,
 that all the woods and mountaines did resounde his wo-
 full exclamations, till that Apollo with his shining
 beames began to cover the earth.
 The which being seene by the Dragon, with a trice
 he arose up, and intended to persecute his journey, but be-
 lying his eyes towards the heavens, hee did discover
 hanging upon a high and mightie pine apple tree the ar-
 mour of the knight, which was hung there in remembrance of his death
 by Rolana as you heard in the last Chapter: the armour
 had almost lost his bright colour and beganne to rust
 through the great abundance of raine: that fell there
 often and continually, giving testimony of algeat and conuul-
 sion: for all that, it seemed of more value, and of a
 wonderfull richnesse, so without any further circum-
 spection or reserve, hee took, and with the most bright
armour

The second Part of

army, and armed himselfe therewith, and when he lack-
ed no more to put on his the helmet, he heard a voice
that said, hee was to serve that knight as to undoe thys
Droffe, except thou prepare thy selfe to winne it by thy
strength.

The Magitian at this happened voyce, cast his head
on the one side, and spied Rosana newly awaked from a
heavy sleep, and richly armed with a strange enchanted
armour after the manner of the Amazonians, but so that
he did not see to make himselfe arming himselfe, and ha-
ving laced on his Burgonet, hee went towards the de-
viant to take his sword ready layd out in his hand, in-
mitting her with his full buttell.

Rosana who saw his determination, did procure to be-
come her selfe, and save her enemy.

Oh mynistr that you have learned eloquence, so to
set out and relate the noble encounters of these two gal-
lant warriors. Rosana although shee was but a Feminine
nature, yet was she as bold in her great adventures as
any knight in the world, except the Christian Champi-
ons.

But now to returne we to our historie, the valliant A-
mazonian when her enemy came unto her, she strooke him
so terrible a blow upon the visor of his helmet, that with
the fury therof she made sparkles of fire to issue out with
great abundance, and so she bownd his head unto his
brest.

The Magitian did returne unto her his salutation, and
strooke her such a blow upon her helmet, that with the
great noise therof, he made a sound in all the mountains.
Now began betwixt them a furious and fearefull
battell, so fierce that nothing so close nor more extremitie de-
clined the foyle to neither party, nor giving the con-
quest as yet to any, all the while of the combat, the fur-
ous Magitian and the valliant Amazonian thought on no o-
ther thing, but howe of them procured to bring his ad-
versary

the seven Champions.

versarie to his ouerthrow, striking at each other such terrible blowes, and with so great furie, that manie times it made either of them to lose feeling : and both seeing the great force of one another, were meruailously incensed with anger.

When the valiant Lady threw her shield at her backe, that with moze force she might strike and hurt her enemy: and therewithall gaue him so strong a blow vpon the burgonet, that he fell astonied to the earth without anie feeling.

But when the Magitian came againe to himselfe, he returned Rosana such a terrible blow, that if it had chanced to alight vpon her, it would haue clouen her head in peeces, but with great discretion she cleared her self thereof in such sort, that it was stroken in vaine, and with great lightnes she rettyed, and stroke the Magitian so furiously, that she made him once againe to fall to the ground, all astonied, and there appeared at the visor of his helme the abundance of blood that issued out of his mouth : but presently he reuiued, and got vp in a trice, with so great anger, that the smoke which came from his mouth, seemed like a myst befoze his helme, so that almost it could not be scene.

Then this furious deuill (blaspheming against his Gods) hauing his mortall sword verie fast in his hand, he ran towards his enemy, who (without anie feare of hys furie) went forth to receaue him : and when they met together, they discharged their blowes at once, but it fortuned, that the Amazonians blow did first fasten with so great strength, that for all the helmet of the Magitian, which was wrought of the strongest steale, it was not sufficient to make defence, but with the rigorous force wherewith it was charged, it bent in such sorte that it brake all to peeces : and the Magitians head was so greenously wounded, that streames of blood ran downe his armour, and he was forced for want of strength to yeld to the mer-

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cie of the valiaunt Ladye, who quickly condescended to his requestes, vppon this condition, that hee would be a meane to conuaye her fathers dead body to an Island nere adioynning to the borders of Armenia, and there to intomb it in her mothers graue, as shee promised when that his ayze of life flected from his body.

The Magtion for safegarde of his life, presently agreed to performe her desires, and protested to accomplish what soeuer she demaunded.

Then presently by his Arte he prepared his vpon Chariot with his flying Dragons in a readines, whercin they layd the murdered bodye of Leoger vppon a pillowe of myrtle-toe, and likewise placed themselves therein, wher in they were no sooner entred, with necessaries belonging to their trauelles, but they flew the waye the ayze more swifter then a whirl-wind, or a shippe sayling on the seas in a stormy tempest.

The wonders that he performed by the way, be so many and miraculous, that I want an Orators eloquence to describe them, and a Poets skill to expresse them.

But to bee shorthe, when Rosana was desirous to eate, and that her hunger increased: by his charmes he would procure birdes (of their owne accordes) to fall out of the skyes, and yeild themselves vnto their pleasures, with all things necessary to suffice their wantes.

Thus was Rosana with her fathers dead body, carped through the ayze by Magicke arte, ouer hills and dales, mountaines and valleys, wooddes and Forrestes, townes and Citties, and through many both wonderfull and strange places and countries.

And at the last, they arrived nere vnto the confines of Armenia, beeing the place of their long desired rest: But when they approached nere vnto the Queene of Armenias groue, they descended from their inchaunted Chariot, and bore Leogers body to his burying place, the which they found (since Rosanaes departure) ouergrowne with mosse
and

the seven Champions.

and wythered bzambles : yet for all that they opened the Sepulcher, and layd his bodie (yet freshly bleeding) vpon his Ladies consuming carcasfe : which beeing done, the Magitian couered againe the graue with earth, and laid thereon græne turues, which made it seeme as though it neuer had been opened.

All the time that the Magitian was performing the ceremonious Funerall, Rosana watered the earth wyth her teares, neuer withdrauing her eyes from looking vpon the Graue : and when it was finished, shee fell into this most sorrowfull and distressfull lamentation following.

O cruell Destinies (said she) with your rigours haue bereaued me of both my Parents, & left me to the world a comfortlesse Dyphane, receaue the sacrifice of my chastitie, in payment of your vengeance : and let my blood here shed vpon this Graue, shewe the singlenesse of my heart. And with the like solemnitie may all their hearts be broken in peeces, that seeke the downfall and dishonour of Ladies.

As she was uttering these and such like sorrowes, shee tooke forth a naked sword, which she had readie for the same effect, and put the pummell to the ground, and cast her bzeast vpon the point. The which shee did with such furious violence and such exceeding hast, that the Magitian although he was there present could not succour her, nor preuent her from committing on her selfe so bloodie a fact.

This sodaine mischaunce so amazed him, and so grieved his soule, that his heart (for a time) would not consent that his tung should speake one word to expresse hys passion.

But at last, (hauing taken a truce with sorrowe, and recovering his former speech) he tooke vp the dead bodie of Rosana, bathed all in blood, and likewise buried her in her Parents Graue : and ouer the same he hung vp an

The second Part of

Epitaph that did declare the occasion of all their deaths.

This being done to expresse the sorrowes of his heart for the desperat death of such a Magnanimous Lady, and the rather to exempt himselfe from the company of all humane creatures: he erected ouer the graue (by magicke arte) a very stately Tombe, the which was in this order framed. First there was fixed foure pillozs, euery one of a very fine Rubie: vpon the which was placed a Sepulcher of Cristall: within the sepulcher there seemed to be two faire Ladyes, the one hauing her breste peirced thorowe with a sword and the other with a Crowne of golde vpon her head and so leane of body that she seemed to pine away: and vpon the sepulcher there lay a knight all along with his face looking vp to the heauens, and armed with a coarset of fine Steele, of a russet enamelling: vnder the sepulcher there was spread abroad a great carpet of gold, and vpon it two pillozs of the same, and vpon them lay an olde sheapheard with his shep-hooke lying at his feete: his eyes were shut, and out of them distilled many pearled teares: at euery pilloz there was a gentlewoman without any remembrance, the one of them seemed to be murthered, and the other rauished.

And nere vnto the sepulcher there lay a terrible great beast, headed like a Lyon: his brest and body like a wolfe, and his tayle like a scorpion, which seemed to spitte continually flames of fire: the sepulcher was compassed about with a wall of yron, with foure gates for to enter in there at: the gates were after the manner and callour of fine Diamonds, and directly ouer the top of the chiefest gate, stood a marble pilloz whereon hung a table written with red letters: the contentes whereof were as followeth.



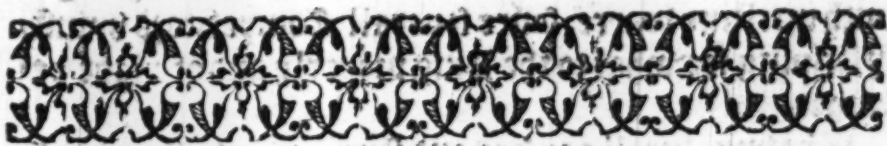
the seven Champions.



So long shall breath vpon this brittle earth,
The framer of this stately Monument,
Till that three children of a wondrous birth;
Out of the Northerne climate shall be sent.
They shall obscure his name as fates agree:
And by his fall, the fiendes shall tamed bee.

This Monument being no sooner framed by the assistance of Plutos legions, and maintained by their deuillish powers, but the Pygromancer entlosed himselfe in the walles, where he consozted chiefly with furies and walking spirits, that continually fed vpon his blood, and left their damnable sealed sticking vnto his left side, as a sure token and witnes that he had giuen both his soule and body to their governments after the date of his mortall life was finished.

In which enchanted sepulcher we will leave him for a time conferring with his damnable mates, and returne to the chistian knights, where we left them travelling towarde Babylon, to place the King againe in his Kingdome.



The second Part of



CHAP. XIII.

How the seauen Champions of Christendome restored the Babylonian King vnto the Kingdome: and after how honourably they were receiued at Rome, vvhether Saint George fell in loue with the Emperours Daughter, being a professed Nunne. Of the mischiese that insued thereby, and of the desperate ende of yong Lucius Prince of Rome.



He vallant Christian Champions hauing as you heard in the Chapter going before, perfourmed the Adventure of the enchanted monument, accompanied the Babylonian King home to his kingdom of Assiria, as they had all verie solemnly and faithfully promised to him.

But when they approached the Confinnes of Babylon, and made no question of peacefull and princely entertainment, there was neither signe of peace, nor likelihood of ioyfull or frendly welcome: for all the Countrey ragged with intestine warre, foure seuerall Competitors vnjustly struing for what to the King properly and of right belonged.

The vnnaturall causes and stirrers vp to this blood-
deuon

the seven Champions.

denouring controuersie, were the foure Noblemen, vnto whom the King vnadvisedly committed the gouernment of his Realme, when hee went in the tragickall pursute of his faire daughter, after his dreaming illusion that caused him so cruelly to seeke her death. And the breaking out into this hurly burly, grew first to head in this maner following.

Two yeres after the Kings departure, these Deputics gouerned the publike State in great peace, and with prudent policie, til after no tidings of the King could be heard notwithstanding so manie messengers as were in euery quarter of the world sent to enquire of him: and then did Ambition kindle in all their hearts, each struing to wrest into his hand the sole possession of the Babylonian Kingdome.

To this end did they all make seuerall friends: for this had they contended in manie fights, and now lastly they intended to set all their hopes vpon this maine chaunce of warre, intending to fight all till thre fell, and one remained victor over the rest, whose head should bee beautified with a crowne.

But of traitors and treason the end is sodaine & shamefull: for no sooner had Saint George (placing himselfe betweene the Battells) in a bræfe Oration shewed the adventures of the King, and he himselfe to the people discovered his reuerend face, but they all shouted for ioye, and hailed the Usurpers presently to death, and reinstalled in his ancient dignitie, their true, lawfull and long lookt for King.

The King being thus restored married Fidela for her faithfulness: and after the nuptiall feasts, the Champions (at the earnest request of Saint Anthonie) departed towards Italy: where in Rome the Emperour spared no cost honourably and most sumptuously to entertaine those neuer daunted knights, the famous Wonders of Chikendome.

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At that time of the yeare when the Summers Queen had beautified the Earth with interchaungeable ornaments, Saint George (in companie of the Emperour) with the rest of the Champions chanced to walke along by the side of the River Tyber, and to delight themselves with the pleasurable meades, and beauteous prospect of the Countrey.

Before they had walked halfe a myle from the Citty, they approached an ancient Punnrie, which was right faire and of a stately building, and likewise encompassed about with chrystall streames and green meadowes, furnished with all manner of beauteous trees, and fragrant flowers.

This Punnrie was consecrated to Diana the Queene of Chastitie, and none were suffered to liue therein, but such chaste Ladies and Virgins, as had vowed themselves to a single life, and to keepe their Virginities for ever vnspotted.

In this place the Emperours onely Daughter liued a professed Nunne, and exempted her selfe from all compaignie, except it were the fellowship of chaste and Religious Virgins.

This vertuous Lucina (for so was shee called) hauing intelligence before by the ouerscers of the Punnrie, how that the Emperour her Father with manie other Knights were coming to visite their religious Habitation, against their approach shee attyred her selfe in a gowne of white satten, all layd ouer with gold lace, also hauing her golden lockes of haire somewhat laid forth: and vpon her head was knit a garland of swete smelling flowers, which made her seeme celestially and of a diuine creation.

Her beantie was so excellent, that it might haue quailed the heart of Cupide, and her bountie exceeded the Paphian Quienes. Never could Circes with al her cunning frame so much beantie in anie creature, as was vpon her face:

the seven Champions.

face: nor neuer could the flattering Syrens more beguile the travellers, then did her bright countenance inchant the English Champion: for at his first entrance into the Sunnerye, he was so ravished with her sight, that he was not able to withdraue his eyes from her beauty, but stood gazing vpon her Rosse turreted cheekes, like one bewitched with Medusas shadowes: but to her shorthe, her beauty seemed so Angellicall, and the burning flames of loue so stored his heart, that he must either inioy her companye or giue ende to his life by some vntimely meanes.

Saint George being wounded thus with the darte of loue, dissembled his griefe and not revealed it to any one, but departed with the Emperors back againe to the Citie, leaving his heart behinde him cloased in the stony Monastery with his lonely Lucina.

All that ensuing night he could not enioy the benefit of sleepe, but did contemplate vpon the diuine beautye of his Lady, and fraughted his minde with a thousand generall cogitations how hee might attaine to her loue, being a chaste virgin and a professed Nun.

In this manner spent hee away the night, and no sooner appeared the mornings brightnesse in at his chamber window, but he arose from his restless bed, and attyzed him selfe in watchet velvet, to signifie his true loue, and wandred all alone vnto the Monastery wher he revealed his deepe affection vnto his Lady, who was as farre from granting to his request, as heauen is from earth, or the deepest seas from the highest Elements: for she protested while life remayned within her bodie, neuer to yeild her loue in the way of marriage to anye one, but to remaine a pure virgin and one of Dianes traine.

No other resolution could Sa. George get of the chaste Nun, which caused him to departe in great discontent, intending to seeke by some other meanes to obtaine her loue, so comming to the rest of the Christian Champions,

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he revealed to them the truth of all things that had happened, who in this manner counsailed him, that hee should provide a multitude of armed knightes, every one bearing in their handes a sword ready drawn, and to enter the Monastery at such a time as she little mistrusted, and first with faire promises and flattering speeches, to entice her to love, then if she refused not, to fill her eares with cruell threatnings, protesting that if she will not graunt to requite his love with like affection, he would not leave standing one stone of that Monastery vpon an other, and likewise to make her a bloody offering vppe to Diana.

This policy liked wel Saint George, though he intended not to prosecute such cruelty: so the next morning by break of day he went vnto the nunnery in company of no other but the christian champions armed in bright armour with their glistering swordes ready drawn; the which they caried vnder their sode cloakes to prevent suspicion.

But when they came to the Monastery, and had entered into the chamber of Lucina (whom they found kneeling vpon the bare ground at her ceremonious oracions) Saint George first proffered kindnes by faire promises, and after ward made knowne his unmercifull pretended cruelty, and therewithall shaking their bright swordes against her vertuous brest, then protested (though contrary to their mindes) that except he would yeelde vnto Saint George her unconquered love, they would bathe their weapons in her dearest blood.

At which wordes the distressed Virgin, being overcharged with feare, lunked down presently to the ground, and lay so; a time in a dead agony, but in the ende, recovering her selfe, she lifted vp her angelicall face, shrowded vnder a cloude of pale sorrow, and in this manner declared her minde.

Well renowned, and well approved knightes said she,

it

the seuen Champions.

It is as difficult to me, to climbe vpp to the highest toppe of heauen, as to perswade my minde to yeeld to the fulfilling of your requests.

The pure and chaste Goddess Diana that sittes now crowned amongst the golden starres in heauen, will reuenge my periured promise if I yeeld to your desires, for I haue long since deeply vowed to spende my daies in this religious house, in the honour of her diety, and not to yeelde the flower of my virginity to any one, which vow I will not infringe for all the Papiestie of Róome: you know by aue champions, that in time the watery droppe will mollify the hardest Diamond, and time may weede out this deepe rote and impression from my heart.

Therefore I request of you by the honour of true knight-hood, and by the loues you beare vnto your native countreyes, to graunt me the liberty of seauen daies, that I may at full consider with my heart, befoze I giue an answer to your demaunds, and to the intent that I may make some publike sacrifice as well to appease the wrath which the chaste Goddess Diana may conceaue against me, as to satisfie mine owne soule, for not fulfilling my vow.

These wordes being no sooner ended, but the champions incontinently without any more delay ioyfully consented, and moreover profered themselves to bee all present at the same sacrifice, and so departed from the Monastery with exceeding great comfort.

The champions being gone, Lucina called together all the rest of the Nuns, and declared to them the whole discourse of her affliction, where after amongst this religious company, with the help of some other of their approved friends, they deuised a most strange sacrifice, which hath since been the occasion that so many inhumaine and bloudy sacrifices hath bin committed.

The next morning after five daies were finished, no sooner did bright Phcebus shew his golde beames abroad,

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but the *Spannes* began to prepare all thinges in readines for the sacrifice: so directly before the doore of the *Spanne*-*stary*, they byzed cunning woꝝkmen to erect a scaffolde, all very richly covered with cloth of golde, and vpon the scaffolde (about the middle therof) was placed a faire table covered also with a Carpet of cloth of golde, and vpon it a chafingdish of coales burning: all this being set in good order, the Emperoz with the Christian Champions, and many other Roman knights being present to beholde the ceremonious sacrifice, who little mistrusting the dolefull tragédie that after hapned.

The assemblie being silent, there was straightwayes heard a swete and hermonious sound of Clarions and Trumpets and sundrie other kind of instruments: these entred first vpon the scaffolde, and next vnto them were brought seauen *Spannes*, all adozned with fine white wools, moze softe in feeling then Arabian silke, with huge and mightie cragged hoꝝnes bound about with garlands of flowers: after them followed a certaine number of *Spannes* attyred in blacke vestures, singing their accustomed songes in the honoz of Diana: after them followed an auncient *Patrone* *Dyatrone* in a Chariot by foure comely virgins, bringing in her handes the Image of Diana: and on either side of her two auncient *Spannes* of great estimation, each of them bearing in their handes rich vessels of golde full of most pꝛectous and swete wines: then after all this came the beautifull *Lucina* apparelled with a rich Roabe of estate, beeing of a great and inestimable value.

Thus ceremoniously they ascended the scaffolde, where the *Patrone* placed the Image of Diana behinde the chafingdish of coales that was there burning: the rest of the *Spannes* continued still singing their songes and drincking of the pꝛectous wines that was brought in the golden vessel: this being done, they all at once brought laue the necks of the *Rams* by cutting their throates, whose bloods they

the seven Champions.

they sprinkled round about the scaffold, and opened their bowelles and burned their inward partes in the chafing dish of coales.

Thus with this slaughter, they made sacrifice vnto the Quene of Chastitie: at the sight whereof was present, the surfetting Loner Saint George, with the other five Christian knights armed all in bright armor, and were all verie attentine to this that I here haue tolde you.

The sacrifice ended, this Lucina commaunded silence to be made, vnd when all the company were still she raised by her selfe vpon her seate, and with a heauie voyce distilling many salte teares: she said.

O most excellent and chaste Diana, in whose blessed bosome two vndeiled Virgins doe recreate our selues: vnto thy deuine excellency doe I now commende this my last sacrifice, craning record of all the Gods, that I haue done my best to continue a spotles maiden of thy most beautiful traine.

O heauens shall I consent to deliuer my Virginitie willingly to him whose soule desires to haue the vse of it, or shall I my selfe commit my vtter ruine and sorrowfull destruction, the which proceedeth onely by the meanes of my flourishing beautie, the which woulde it had bene as blacke as the nightly rauens, or like to the tawny tanned Monkes in the furthest mountaines of India.

O sacred Diana, thou blessed Quene of chastitie, is it possible that thou dost consent that a Virgin descended from so royall a race as I am, should procure to spotte the worthines of her predecessors, by yielding her Virgins honor to the conquest of loue without respecting my beauty, or regarding my chaste vowe I haue made vnto thy deity?

Well seeing this so that I must needs violate my selfe against all humane nature, I beseech thee to receiue the sollemnitie of this my death, which I offer vp in sacrifice to thy deuine excellencie, for I am here constrained with

The second Part of

mine own trembling hand to cut off the flourishing branches of these my dayes: for this I sweare before the Goddiesse of heauen, that I had rather offer vp my soule into the sweete and sacred bosome of Diana, than to yeeld the castle of my chastitie, to the conquest of anye Knight in the world.

And now to thee I speake thou balliant Knight of England, behold here I yeeld vnto thy hands my liuelles bodie, to vse according to thy will and pleasure, requesting onely this thing at thy hand, that as thou louedst mee liuing, thou wilt loue me dead, and like a mercifull Champion suffer me to receiue a princely Funerall.

And last of all, to thee diuine Diana doe I speake, accept of this my blessing soule, that with so much blood is offered vnto thee.

So in finishing this sorrowfull speech she drew out a faire and bright shining sword, which shee had hidde secretly vnder her gowne, and setting the hilt agaynst the Scaffold (little looked for of her Father and those y were present) shee sobainly threw her selfe vpon the point of that sword, in such a furious manner, that it quered her blodie heart in sunder, and so rendred her soule to the tuition of her, vnto whom she offered her blood and ruthfull sacrifice.

What shall I here declare the lamentable sorrowes and pittifull lamentation that was there made by her father and other Roman Knights that were present at this unhappie mischance: so great it was, that the walles of the Monasterie echoed, and their pittifull cries ascended to the heauens.

But none was more grieved in mind than the afflicted English Champion, who (like a man distraught of sense) in great furie rushed amongst the people, throwing them downe on euerie side, till he ascended vpon the scaffold: & approaching the dead bodie of Lucina, hee tooke her vp in his armes, and with a sorrowfull and passionate voyce he said.

the seuen Champions.

said: My beloued ioy, and late my only hearts delight,
is this the Sacrifice wherein (through thy desperatenes)
thou hast deceiued me, who loued thee more than my selfe?
Is this the respite that thou requiredst for seauen dayes,
wherein thou hast concluded thy cōw death and my bitter
confusion?

O noble Lucina, and my beloued Ladie, if this were
thy intent, why didst not thou first sacrifice mee thy Ser-
uant and Loue, wholly subiecte vnto thy deuine beautie?
Woe be vnto mee, and woe bee vnto my unhappie enter-
prise: for by it is she lost, who was made soueraigne La-
die of my heart.

O Diana, accursed by this chaunce, because thou hast
consented to so bloodie a tragedie, by the eternall powers
of heauen, that neuer more thou shalt be worshipped, but
in euerie Countrey where the English Champion com-
meth, Lucina in thy stead shall be adored. For euer more
will he seek to diminish thy name, and blot it from the gol-
roll of heauen, yea and viterly extinguish it in eternitie:
so that there shall neuer more memorie remaine of thee,
for this thy bloodie Tyrannie, in suffering so lamentable
a Sacrifice.

So soone had he deliuered these speeches, but incensed
with furie he drew out his sword, and parted the image of
Diana in two peeces, protesting to ruinate the Monaste-
rie, within whose walls the deuise of this bloodie Sacri-
fice was concluded.

The sorrow and extreame grēfe of the Romane Em-
perour exceeded for the murder of his Daughter, that
he fell to the earth in a senselesse swoond, and was carri-
ed halfe dead with grēfe by some of his knights home to
his Pallace, where he remained speechles by the space of
thirtie dayes.

The Emperour had a Sonne, as valiant in armes as
anie borne Italian except Saint Anthonie. This young
Prince whose name was Lucius, seeing his fathers timeles
death

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death and by what meanes it was committed, he presently intended with a traine of a hundred armed knights, which continually attended upon his person, to assaile the discontented Champions, and by force of armes to reuenge his sisters death.

His resolution so encouraged the Romaine knights, but especially the Emperors sonne, that betwixt these two companies began as terrible a battell as euer was fought by any knights, the fiercenes of their blowes so exceeded the one side against the other, that they did resounde echoes, and they yeelded a terrible noyse in the great woods.

This battell did continue betwixt them both sharp and fierce for the space of two houres, by which time the valor of the enclosed Champions so prevailed, that most of the Romaine knights were discomfited and slaine, some had their hands pared from their shoulders, some had their armes and legs lopped off, and some lay breathles weltring in their owne bloods, in which encounter many a Romaine Ladie lost her husband, many a widowe was bereaued of her Sonne, and many a child was left fatherles to the great sorrow of the whole country.

But when the valiant young Prince of Roome sawe his knights discomfited, and hee left alone to withstand so many noble Champions, he presently set spurs to his horse, and fled from them like to a heape of dust forced by a whirlwind.

After whom the Champions would not pursue, accounting it no glory to their names to triumph in the overthrow of a single knight, but remained still by the seasid, where they buried the sacrificed virgin, under a marble stone close by the monasterie wall. The which being done to their contentments, Saint George ingraued this Epitaph vpon the same stone with the point of his dagger, which was in this wise following.

the Seven Champions.



Vnder this marble stone interd doth lye
Luckles Lucina, of beautie bright:
Who to maintaine her spotles chastitie
Against the assailement of an English Knight,
Vpon a blade her tender breast she cast:
A bloodie offering to Diana chaste.



So when hee had written this Epitaph, the Christian
Champions mounted vpon their swift faste Steedes, &
had adieu to the unhappie Confinnes of Italy, hoping
to finde better fortune in other Countreies. In which tra-
uell wee will leaue them for a time, and speake of the
Prince of Rome: who after the discomfiture of the Ro-
mane knights, fled in such hast from the furies of the war-
like Champions. After which, hee like a Starved Lion
trauerſed along by the Riuer of Tybris, filling all places
with his melancholy passions, vntill such time as hee en-
tered into a thicke groue, wherein he purposed to rest hys
wearie limbes, and lament his misfortunes. After hee had
in this ſolitarie place vnlaſhed his Helmet, and buried it
ſcornfully againſt the ground, the infernal Furies began
to viſite him, and to ſting his breaſt with motions of fie-
rie reuenge. In the end he caſt vp his wretched eyes vnto
heavens

The second Part of

heaven, and said. Oh you fatall torches of the elements, why are you not clad in mournfull habiliments, to cloake my wandring steps in eternall darkness? Shall I be made a scoone in Rome for my cowardise? or shall I return and accompanie my Romane friends in death? whose bloodes me thinkes I see sprinkled about the fields of Italy. For thinks I heare their bleeding soules fill each corner of the earth with my base flight: therefore will I not live to be feared a fearfull coward, but dye courageously by mine owne hands, wherby those accursed Champions shall not obtaine the conquest of my death, nor triumph in my fall. This being said, he drew out his dagger, and rased his heart in sunder. The newes of whose desperate death, after it was bydded to his fathers eares, hee inferred his bodie with his sister Lucinaes, and erected over them a stately Chappell, wherein the Nunnes and religious women during all their lives sung Dirges for his Childeens soules.

After this the Emperour made proclamation through all his Dominions, that if anie knight were so hardie as trauell in pursute after the English Champion, whosoever of armes bring him backe, and deliver his head unto the Emperour, he should not onely be held in great estimation through the Land, but receive the government of the Empire after his decease. Which rich proffer so encouraged the mindes of diuers aduenterous knightes, that they went from sundry Provinces in the pursute of Saint George, but their attempts were all in vaine.



the seven Champions.



CHAP. XIII.

Of the triumphs, tilts and turnaments that were solemnly held in Constantinople by the Grecian Emperour, and of the honorable adventures that were there achieved by the christian champions, with other strange accidents that happened.

In the Easterne Parts of the world the same and valiant deeds of the Champions of Christendome was noyed, with their honourable victories, heroicall acts, and feats of armes, naming them the myrrours of nobilitie, and the types of bright honour. All Kings & Princes (to whose eares the report of their valours was banded) desired much to behold their noble personages. But when the Emperour of Grecia (keeping then his Court in the Citie of Constantinople) heard of their mightie and valiant deeds, he thirsted after their fights, and his minde could neuer bee satisfied with content, untill such time as he had deuised a meane to frayne them vnto his Court; not onely in that he might enioy the benefit of their companies, but to haue his Court honoured with the presence of such renowned Knights: & therefore in this manner it was accomplished.

The second Part of

The Emperour dispatched Messengers into dyuers parts of the world, giving them in charge to publish thorough out euery Countrey and Prouince as they went, of an honourable Tournament that should bee holden in the Cittie of Constantinople within sixe months following: thereby to accomplish his intent, and to bring the Chistian Champions (whose companie hee so desired) vnto his Court.

This charge of the Cretian Emperour (as he commanded) was speedily performed, with such diligence, that in a short time it came to the eares of Christian knights, as they travelled betwixt the Prouinces of Asia and Africa: Who at the time appointed came in great pompe and maiestie to Constantinople, to furnish forth the honorable Triumphs.

At the same whereof like wisse resorted thither a great number of Knights of great valour and strength: among whom was the Prince of Arger, with a goodly companie of noble persons: and the prince of Fele, with many well proportioned Knights. Likewise came thither the King of Arabia in great state, and with no less maiestie came the King of Saba: and with other of his kin were both Giants. Many other brave and valiant knights (whose names I here omit) came thither to honour the Cretian Emperour: so, that he was therewith well contented of them all. And as they came to honour the triumphs, so like wisse they came to please their eyes, and to get fame and name, & the praise that belongeth to valiant knights. It was supposed of all the companie, that the King of Sicilia wold gaine by his prowess the dignity from the rest, for that he was a Giant of very big members, although his younger brother was the more skilfull knight: who determined not to fight, so that his brother should get the honour and praise from all knights that came. But it fell out otherwise, as hereafter you shall understand.

the.ſeuē Champions.

So when the day of tournament was come, all the Ladies and damſels put themſelues in places to beholde the ſetting, and attired themſelues in the greateſt bzauerie that they could deuise, and the great court full of peo- ple which came thither for to ſee the triumphant tour- nament.

What ſhould I ſay here of the Emperours Daughter, the faire Alcida, who was of ſo great beauty that ſhe ſeemed more liker a diuine ſubſtance then an earthly crea- ture, and ſate glittering in her rich ornaments amongeſt the other Ladies like vnto Phoebe in the Chriſtall firmament, and was noted of all beholders to be the faireſt Princes that euer mortall eye beheld: ſo when the Em- perour was ſeated vpon his imperiall thronne vnder a ſent of greene deluet, the knights began to enter into the liſtes, and he which waſt the firſt that entered waſt the King of Arabia, mounted vpon a very faire and well adorned courſer, he waſt armed with blacke armour, all to be ſpotted full of ſiluer knobs, and brought with him fifty knights all apparelled with the ſame livery, and thus with great ſtateſty he rode rounde about the place, making great obediēce vnto all the Ladies and dam- ſels which ſtoode there.

After him entered a pagan knight, who waſt Lord of Sicilia, and armed with armour of a Lyons colour, accompanied with a hundred knights all apparelled in hel- met of the ſame colour, and paſſed rounde about the place, ſhe wing vnto the Ladies great frienſhip and courteſie as the other did.

Which being done, he beheld the King of Arabia, far- ryng to releaue him at the Juſt: and the trumpets began to ſound, giuing them to vnderſtand that they muſt pre- pare themſelues ready to the encounter: whereat theſe knights were nothing vnwilling but ſpurred their cour- ſers with great fury and cloſed together with couragious ballure.

The second Part of

The king of Arabia most strongly made his encounter, and strooke the Pagan without missing vpon the brest: but the Pagan at the next race, being heate with furie strooke him so surely with his launce, in such sort that he heaued him out of his saddle, and he fell presently to the ground, after which the Pagan knight rode vp & downe with great pride and gladnes.

The Arabian king being thus ouerthrowne, there entered into the listes the king of Argier armed with no other furniture but with silver muls and a brestplate of hight Steele before his brest, his pompe and pride excēded all the knightes that were then present, but yet to small purpose his pride and arrogancy serued, for at the first encounter hee was ouerthrowne to the ground: in like sort did this Pagan & fiftene other knightes of fiftene seuerall p̄uinc̄es to the great wonder and amazement of the Emperour and all the assembly.

During all these balliant encounters Saint George with the other christian champions stood a farre off vpon a high gallery beholding them, intending not as yet to be scene in the tilte.

But now this balliant Pagan after he had rode some five courses vp and downe the place, and seeing none entering the tilt yarde, he thought to heare all the fame and honour away for that day.

But at that same instance there entred the noble minded Prince of Fesse, being for courage the onely p̄ince of his countrey hee was a merueilous well proportioned knight and was armed all in white armour, wrought with excellent knottes of golde, and hee brought in his company a hundred knightes, all attired in white satten, and riding about the place he shewed his obedience vnto the Emperour and to all the Ladies, and thereupon the trumpets began to sound.

At the noyse whereof, the two knightes spurred their coursers and made their incounter so strong and with
such

the seven Champions.

such great furie that the proude Pagan was cast to the ground and so departed the listes with greate dishonour.

Straight way entered the bzane King of Silicia, who was armed in a glistering cosset of very fine stele, and was mounted vpon a mighty and rich courser, & brought in his company, two hundred knightes, all apparilled with rich cloth of gold, hauing euery one a seuerall instrument of musike in their hands, sounding thereon most heauenly melody.

And after the Silician king had made his accustomed compasse and courtesie in that place, hee locked downe his helme and put himselfe in readinesse to iust.

So when the signe was giuen by the chiefe harrolde at armes, they spurred their horses and made their encounters so ballant, that at the first race they made their lances shiuer in the aire and the peeces thereof to scatter abroade, like aspen leaues in a whirlewinde.

At the second course the young Prince of Fesse was carried ouer his horse buttocke, and the saddle with him betwixt his legs, which was a great griefe vnto the Emperour, and all the company that did see him, for that he was wel beloued of them al, and held for a knight of great estimation.

The Silician king grew proude at the Prince of Fesses overthrow, and was so encouraged and so furious that in a small time he left not a knight remaining on horsebacke in their saddles that durste attempt to iust with him, but cuerie one of what Countrey and Nation soere anoyded the attempt: so that there was no question among eyther Nobles or the multitude but that vnto hym the vndoubted honour of the victory in triumph would bee attributed.

And being in this arrogant pride, hee heard a great noise in the maner of a tumult drawing nere, which was the occasion that he stood still, and to expect some
strange

The second Part of

strange accident, and looking about what it should bee, he beheld Saint George entering the listes, who was armed with his rich and strong armour, all of purple, full of golden shartes, and before him rode the champions of France, Italy, Spaine and Scotland, al on stately courfers, bearing in their handes foure liken streamers of foure severall colours.

And the champion of Wales followed him, carrying his shield whereon was portraied a golden Lyon in a sable field, and the champion of Ireland likewise carried his speare being of knotty ash, strongly bound about with plates of Steele, all which shewed the highnesse of his descent, in that so many brave knights attended vpon him.

So when Saint George had passed by the royall seate whereon the Emperour sat, invested in whose company was many knights of great authozity, he rode along by the other side, whereas Alcida the Emperours faire daughter sat amongst many gallant Ladies and faire damels richly apparellied with bestures of gold, to whom he bated his bonnet shewing the the countesse of a knight and so passed by Alcida, at the sight of this noble champion could not refraine her selfe, but that with a high and bold voice she said vnto the Emperour.

Most mighty Emperour and my royall father (saide she) this is the knight in whose power and strength, all christendome doth put their fortunes, and this is he whom the whole world admires for chivalrie.

Saint George although, he heard very well what the lovely Princesse had said, passed on, and dissembled as though he had heard nothing, and so when he came before the face of his curious adversary, hee took his shield and his speare and prepared himseife in readinesse to iust, and so being both provided, the trumpets beganne to sounde, whereat with great fury, these two warlike knights met together, and neither of them missed their blowes at their

the seven Champions.

encounter: but yet by reason that Saint George had a desire to extoll his fame, and to make his name resounde thorough the world, he strooke the giant such a mighty blowe upon his brest, that he presently overthrewe him to the ground, and so with great state and maiesty he passed along without any shew of disdaine, whereat the people gave a great shoute that it resounded like an eccho in the ayre: and in this maner said.

The great and mighty boaster is overthron, and his furious strength hath little auailed him. After this many Princesse proued their adventures against this English champion, and euery knight that were of any estimation lusted with him.

But with great ease he overcame them al in lesse then the space of two houres: so at such time as bright Phœbus began to make an end of his long iourney, and the day to draw to an ende, there appeared to enter into the listes the braue and mighty giant, being brother to the Scilician king with a mighty great speare in his hande, whose glimmering point of Steele glittered through al the court, he brought with him but onely one squire, attired in finer male bringing in his hand another launce.

So this furious giant without any care of courtesie came vnto the Emperour or any of his knights there present entered the place, the which being done, the squire that brought his other speare, went vnto the English champion and saide. Sir Knight (quoth he) yonder braue and valiant giant, my Lord and Maister doth send vnto thee this warlike speare, and therewithall he willeth thee to defend thy self to the uttermost of thy power & strength, so he hath bowed befoze sun set, to be either Lord of thy fortunes or a vassell to thy prowess and likewise saith that he doth not only desie thee in the turniment, but also challenge thee to mortall battaile.

This brauing message caused Saint George to smile, and hee in his brest a new desire of honour, and so retur-

The second Part of

ned him this answere, friend go thy waies and tell the giant that sent thee, that I doe accept his demaunde, although it doth grieue my very soule to heare his arrogant defiance to the great disturbance of this royall company, and in the presence of so mighty an Emperour, but seeing his stomache is gorged with so much pride, tell him that George of England is ready to make his defence, and also that shortly he shall repent him by my pledge of knight-hood.

In saying these words he took the speare from the squire, and deliuered him his gauntlet from his hand to carry to his master, and so put himselfe to the standing, awaiting for the encounter.

At that time he was very nie the place where the Emperour sat, who heard the answere which the English knight made vnto the squire, and was much displeased that the giant in such sort should defie S. George without any occasion.

But it was no time as then to speake but to keepe silence, and to pray vnto his Gods to take away his great pride and arrogancie.

All this time the two warriours (mounted vpon their horses) carried the signe to bee made by the trumpets, which being giuen, they set forward their couriers, with their speares in their restes, with so great fury and desire the one to vnhorse the other, that they both fayled in their encounter.

The giant who was very strong and proude, when he sawe that he had missed his intent, he returned against Saint George, carrying his speare vpon his shoulder, and comming nie vnto him, vpon a sodaine before he could cleare himselfe, he strooke him such a mighty blowe vpon his cosset, that his staffe broke in pieces, by reason of the finenesse of his armour, and made the English knight to double his body backwardes vpon his horse crupper.

But

the seven Champions.

But when he sawe the great villany that the giant used against him, his anger increased very much and so taking his speare in the same sort, he went towards the giant and saide.

Thou furious and proude beast, thou scozne of nature and enemy of true knight hood, thinkest thou for to entrap me trecherously, and to goze me at vnawares like to a sauage boare: Now as I am a christian knight, if my knotty speare haue good successe I will reuenge me of thy cruelty.

And in saying this, hee stroke him so furiously on the breast, that his speare passed through the giants body, and appeared forth at his backe, whereby hee fell presently dolone dead to the ground, and yelded his life to the conquest of the fatall sisters.

All that were present were very much amazed thereat, and wondzed greatly at the strength and force of saint George, accompting him the fortunatest knight that euer weilded launce, and the very patterne of true nobility.

At this time the golden sun had finished his course, hauing nothing aboue the ozion but his glistering beames, whereby the Judges of the turniments, commanded with sound of trumpets that the Iustes should cease, and make an end of the day.

So the Emperour descended from his imperial throne into the tilting place, with all his knightes and Gentlemen at armes, for to receaue the noble champion of England, and desired him that he would go with them into his pallace, there to receaue al honours due vnto a knight of such desert: to the which he could not make any denial, but most vnwillingly consented, after this the Emperours daughter (in company of many courtly virgins) likewise descended their places, wher Alcida bestowed vpon saint George hir gloue, the which he wore for her sauour many a day after in his burgonet.

The second Part of

The six other christian champions, although they merited no honour by this turniment, because they did not try their adventures therein, yet obtained they such good liking among the Grecian Ladies, that every one had his mistresse, and in their presence they long time spent their chiefe delights: now we must leane the champions in the Emperours court for a time forsaking in pleasures and returne to Saint Georges sons travailing the world, to seeke out adventures.





CHAP. XV.

How a Knight with two heads tormented a beautifull Maiden, that had betroathed her selfe to the Emperors Sonne of Constantino-ple: and how she was rescued by Saint Georges Sonnes, and after how they were brought by a strange Aduenture into the companie of the Christian Champions, with other things that hapned in the same trauels.

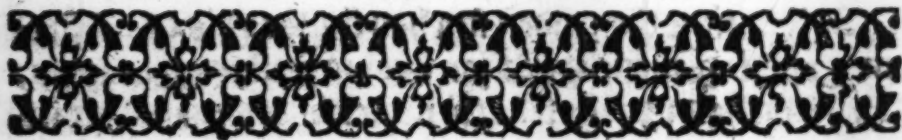


His renowned Emperour (with- in whose Court & Christian cham- pions made their aboades) of late yeares had a Sonne named Polle- mus, in all vertues and knightlye demeanours, equall with anie li- uing. This young pynce in the spring time of his youth, through the pearcing dartes of blinde Cu- pide, fell in loue with a Maiden of a meane parentage- but in beantie and other pzerious gifts of Nature most ex- cellent.

This Dulcippa (soz so was she called) being but daugh- ter to a Countrey Gentleman, was restrained from the Emperours Court, and denied the sight of her beloued Pollemus, and he sozbidden to set his affection so low, upon the

The second Part of

The six other christian champions, although they merited no honour by this tournament, because they did not try their adventures therein, yet obtained they such good liking among the Grecian Ladies, that every one had his mistress, and in their presence they long time lived their chiefe delights: now we must we leaue the champions in the Emperours courte for a time surfeiting in pleasures and returne to Saint Georges sons trauelling the world, to seeke out adventures.





CHAP. XV.

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The second Part of

the displeasure of the Emperour his Father: for he being the Sonne of so mightie a Potentate, and she the daughter of so meane a Gentleman, was thought to be a match unfit and disagreeable to the lawes of the Countrey: and therefore they could not be suffered to manifest their loves as they would, but were constrained by stealth to enioye each others most beloved and heartely desired companies.

So upon a time these two Lovers concluded to meete together in a vally betwixt two hills, in distance from the Emperours Court some three miles, wheras they might in secret (devoid of all suspicion) unite and tie both the hearts in one knot of true love, and to prevent the determination of their Parentes, that so unkindly sought to crosse them.

But when the appoynted day drew on, Dulcippa arose from her restless bed, and attired her self in rich and costly apparell, as though she had been going to perfoyme her nuptiall ceremonies.

In this manner entred she the Valley, at such time as the Sunne began to appeare out of his golden Horizon, & to shewe himselfe vpon the face of the Earth, glistering with his bright beames vpon the silver floating Rivers. Like wise the calme western windes did verie sweetly blow vpon the greene leaues, and made a delicate harmonie: at such time as the fairest Dulcippa (accompanied with high thoughts) approached the place of their appointed meeting.

But when shee found not Prince Pollimus present, she determined to spend y^e time away till he came in trimming of her golden haire, and decking her delicate bodie, and such like delightful pleasures for her contentment and recreation.

Sitting downe vpon a graine banke vnder the shadow of a myrtle tree, she pulled a golden cawle from her head, wherein her haire was wapped, letting it fall and
disperse

the seven Champions.

dispearse it selfe all abrood her backe, and taking out from her christalline bzeast an yuorie comb, she began to kemb her haire, her hands and fingers seeming to be of white alabaster, her face staining the beautie of roses and lillies mixed together, and the rest of her bodie comparable to Hyrens, vpon whose loue and beautie Mahomet did some time deate.

But now marke (gentle Reader) how frowning Fortune crossed her desires, and changed her wished ioyes into vnerpected sorowes. For as she late in this deuine and angelicall likenes, there fortun'd to come wandring by an inhumane tyzant, surnamed the Knight with 2. heads, who was a rauisher of virgins, an oppressor of infants, & an vtter enemy to vertuous Ladies, and strange trauelling Knights.

This tyzant was bodied like vnto a man, but covered all ouer with lockes of haire. Hee had two heads, two mouthes, and foure eyes, but all as red as blood. Which deformed creature presently ranne vnto the Virgin, and caught her vp vnder his arme, and carried her away ouer the mountains into another Countrey, where hee intended to torment her, as you shall heare moze at large hereafter.

But now returne we to Prince Pollemus, who at the time appointed likewise repaired to meete his betroathed Louer: but coming to the place, he found nothing but a silken scarffe, the which Dulcippa had let fall thzough the fearfull frightening she tooke at the sight of the thze headed Knight.

So soner found he the scarffe, but he was oppress'd extremely with sorow, fearing Dulcippa was murdered by some inhumane meanes, and had left her scarffe as a token that she infringed not her promise, but perfourmed it to the losse of her owne life. Wherefoze taking it vp, & putting it next his heart, he breath'd forth this wofull lamentation.

Where

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Here rest thou nere vnto my bleeding heart, thou precious token and remembrance of my dearest Ladie, neuer to bee hence remoued, till such time as my eyes maye either behold her bodie, or my eares heare perfect newes of her vntimely death, that I may in death consozt wryth her.

Frome you accursed Lampes of heauen, that gaue first light vnto this satall morning: for by your dismall light the pride of earthly women is dishonoured. Come, come, you wrathfull planets, descend the lucklesse Horizon, and rayne vpon my head eternal vengeance, oppresse my bodie with continuall miserie, as once you did the woollfull King of Thebes: for by my slouthfull negligence and ouer-long tartance, this blodie tragedie hath beens committed.

Yet for her sake I vowe to trauell through the world, as farre as ener golden Phoebus lendes his light, filling each corner of the earth with clamours of her name, and making the Elements resound with Echoes of my lamentations.

In this resolution returned he home to the Emperour his Fathers pallace, dissembling his grieffe in such manner, that none did suspect his discontented sorowes, nor the strange accident that vnto beauteous Dulcippa had happened.

So vpon a day as he was imagining with himselfe, seeing the small comfort that he toke in the Court, considering the want of her presence whom so much hee desired, he determined in great secret as soone as it was possible to depart the Court.

This determination he straight wayes put in practise, and toke out of the Emperours Armourie vertie secretly an exceeding good cosset, the which was all russet, and enameled with blacke, and embzothered round about with a gilded edge vertie curiously and artificially grauen and carued.

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Also he tooke a sheelde of the same making, sauing that it was not grauen as the armour was, and commaunded a young Gentleman, that was donne vnto an ancient knight of Constantinople, of a good disposition and hardy that he should keepe them safely, and gaue him to vnderstand of his determined pretence.

Although it did greene this young man verie much, yet for all that seeing the great frendship which hee vsed to wardes him, in vtrring his secret vnto him befoze any other, without replying to the contrarie, hee verie diligently tooke the armour, and hidde it, till hee founde a conuenient time to put it into a Shippe verie secretly.

So like wise he put into the same Ship two of the best horses which the Emperour had, and soorthwith he gaue the Prince vnderstanding, that all thinges were then in a readines, and in good order. Pollimus dessembling with the accustomed heauines hee vsed, withdorewe himselfe into his Chamber, till such time as the darke night came.

Which when it was come he made himselfe readie with his apparell, and when all the people of the Court were at their rest, and in their deade sleepes, hee alone with his page, who was named Mercurio, departed spallace and went to the Sea side. His page did call the Mariners of the Ship, who straight way brought vnto them their boate, into the which they entred and went straight aboord.

And being therein for that the winde was verie faire, he commaunded to waigh their Anchors and to hoise vp Sailes, and to commit themselves to the mercy of the waters: as he commaunded all was done, and so in short time, they founde themselves ingulfed in the mayne Ocean, far from the sight of any land.

But when the Emperour his Father vnderstood of his secret departure, the lamentation which hee made

The second Part of

was verie much: and he commaunded his knights to goe vnto the sea side, to know if there were anie ship that departed that night. And when it was told them that there was a Brike that hayled anchoꝝ and hoysed sayle, they vnderstood straight way that the pꝛince was gone awaye in her.

I cannot here declare the great grieve and soꝛowe which the Emperour felt in his wefull heart foꝝ the absence of his Sonne, which a long time he alwayes suspected and feared.

But when the departure of Pollemus was bysted thorough all Constantinople, all sports and feasts ceased, and all the vassalls of the Country were ouercome with a generall soꝛow.

So Pollemus sayled through the deepe seas thꝛee dayes and thꝛee nightes with a verie sayre and prosperous soꝛewinde.

The fourth day in the euening, beeing calme, and no winde at all, the Marriners went to take their restes, some on the poꝛpe, and some in the soꝛeship, foꝝ to ease their wearied bodies:

The pꝛince (who late vpon the poꝛpe of the ship) asked his page foꝝ his Lute, the which straight way was giuen him: and when he had it in his hands, he playde and sung so sweetely, that it seemed to be a most heauenly melodye, and being in this sweete musick, he heard a verie lamentable crye, as it were of a Woman: and leauing his delicate musicke hee gaue a listning and attentive eare to hearken what this soꝛowfull creature sayd, and by reason of the stilnes of the night, he might easely heare the voyce utter these words.



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It will little profite thee thou cruell tyrant, this thy bold hardinesse : for that I am beloved of so worthie a Knight, as will vndoubtedly reuenge this thy tirannous crueltie profered mee.

Then he heard another voyce which seemed to answer.

Now I haue thee in my power, there is no humane creature of power able enough to deliuer or redeeme thee from the tormentes, that (in my determination) I haue purposed thou shalt indure.

Pollemus could heare no more, by reason that the Bark wherein they were passed by so swiftly : but hee supposed that it was his Ladies voyce which he heard, and that she was carried by force away. So (laying downe his Lute) he began to fall into a great thought, and was verie heauie and sorrowfull, in that he knew not how to aduenture for her recouerie.

Being in this cogitation, hee returned to his page which was asleepe, and strake him with his foote, and awaked him, saying : What didst not thou heare the great lamentation which my Ladie Dulcippa made (as to mee it seemed) being in a small Barke that is passed by, and gone forwards along the seas. To the which his page Mercutio answered nothing, for that hee was still in a sound sleepe.

The second Part of

to whome the Prince called againe, saying : arise I say, bring forth mine armour, call by the Marriners that they may launch their boate into the Sea, for by the omnipotent Iupiter I sweare that I will not bee called the Sonne of my Father, if I doe suffer such violence to be done against my loue, and not to procure with all my strength to reuenge the same, Mercurio woulde haue replied vnto him, but the furious countenance of the Prince would not giue him leaue, no, not once to looke vpon his face : so hee brought forth his armour and buckled it on.

In the meane time the Marriners had launched their boate into the Sea, wherein he leaped with a hastie fury, and caried with him his page, and foure of the Marriners for to follow the Barke, and he commaunded them to take their way towards the other companie that passed by them.

So they labored all the night till such time as bright Phoebus with his glistering beames gaue vnto them such light that they might discouer and see the other Barke, although somewhat a farre off.

So laboured they in great courage, till two partes of the day was spent, at which time they sawe come after them a Gallie which was gouerned with eyght oares vpon a side, and it made so great way, that with a trice they were with them, and hee saw that there were in her three Knights in bright armour, to whome Polli-mus called with a loude voyce saying. Moste curteous Knights I request you to take me into your Gallie, that being in her I may the better accomplishe my desire.

The Knights of the Gallie passed by the Prince without making returne of any answere, but rather shewed that they made but little account of him.

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These three knightes were the sonnes of the English champion which departed from their father in his iourney towards Babylon, to set the King againe in his kingdome.

But now to follow our history, the Prince of Constantinople seeing the little account they made of him, with the great anger and fury that he receaued, he took an oze in one hand, and an oar in the other hand, and with such strength he strooke the water, that he made the clothfull barke to rise, and laboured so much with his oares, that with a frice they were equall with the gally.

So leauing the oares with a light leape he put himselfe in the gally with his helme on, and his shield at his shoulder, and being within he said.

Now shall you doe that by force, which before I vsing great courtesie you would not yeeld vnto.

This being said, one of Saint Georges sonnes took the incounter in hand, thinking it a blemish to the honoꝝ of knightehode by multitudes to assaile him, so the two brave knightes without any aduantage the one of the other made their encounters so valiantly that it was a wonder to all the beholders.

The Prince of Constantinople strooke the English knight such a furious blow that he made him to decline his head to his brest, and forced him to recoile backwards two or three steppes, but he came quickly againe to himselfe and returned him so mighty a blow vpon his helme, that he made all his teeth to chatter in his head, which was pittifull to see.

Then beganne betwixt them a merueilous and well foughten battle that all that beheld them greatly admired: with great policy and strength, they indured the bickering all that day, and when they saw the darke and tedious night came vpon them, they did procure with more courage and strength for to finish their battle.

The Prince of Constantinople, passing and blowing

The second Part of

like a bell lifting vp his hood with both his handes and discharged it so strongly vpon his enemy that perforce he made him to fall to the ground and therewithal offered to pull his helmet from his head.

But when the English Knight sawe himselfe in that sort, he threwe his shield from him, and very strongly caught the other about the necke and held him fast, so that betwixt them beganne a mighty and terrible wrestling tumbling and wallowing vp and downe the gally breaching their planks and oares that it was straunge to beholde.

At this time the night began to be very darke, where- by they called for lightes, which presently were brought them by the Parriners, in the meane time these knights did somewhat breath themselves, although it was not much.

So when the lightes were brought, they returned to their late contention with new force and strength.

Diogenes said Pollimus, I cannot beleue to the contrary but that this is Mars the God of war that doth contend in battle with me, and for the great enuy he beares against me, he goeth about to dishonour me.

And with these wordes they thickned their blows with great desperatenesse.

And although this last assault continued more then two houtes, yet neither of them did faint, but at the last they both together lift vp their swordes, and charged them together the one vpon others helme with so great strength that both of them fell downe vpon the hatches without any remembrance.

The rest that did take vpon them, did holde verily that they were both dead, by reason of the abundance of blood which came forth at their wounds, but quickly it was perceaued that there was some hope of life in them.

Upon presently there was an agreement made betwixt

the seven Champions.

the knightes of the gally and the Marriners of the barke that they should conioyne together and to trauell whither fortune would conduct the in this order as you haue heard carried they these two knightes without any remembrance.

But when the Prince of Constantinople came to himselfe with a loude voice he said, Oh God is it possible to be true that I am overcome in this first encounter & assault of my knight hood.

Here I curse the day of my creation and the houre when first I merited the name of a knight, hence forth I leaue all my honours with disgrace, and spend the remnant of my life in base cowardice, and in speaking these wordes he cast his eie aside and beheld the English knight as one newly risen from a trance, who likewise breathed forth these discontented speeces. Oh unhappy son of S. George, thou coward and of little valour, I know not howe thou canst name thy selfe to be the son of the mightiest knight in the world, for that thou hast lost thy honour in this last assault.

This being said, the two weary knights concluded a peace betwixt them, and reuealed each to the other their names and liuing and wherefoze they aduentured to trauell, the which when it was known they sailed forwards that way whereas the dolorous woman went, so in this sort they travelled all the rest of the night that remained, till such time as the day began to be cleare, and straightway they descried land, to which place with great hast they rowed.

And comming a land they found no vied way, but one narrow path, the which they kept, wherein they had not traueiled long when that they met with a poore simple countrey man, with a great hatchet in his hand, and he was going so, to cut some firewood from high and mighty trees, of whom they demaunded what countrey and land it was.

This.

The second Part of

This countrey (said hee) is called Armenia, but yet most courteous knights you must pardon me, for that I doe request you to returne againe, and proceede no farther if you doe esteeme of your liues, for in going this way there is nothing to be had but death.

For that the Lord of this countrey is a furious monster called the two headed knight, and he is so furious in his tyranny, that neuer any stranger as yet could escape out of his hand alive.

And for proofe of his cruelty no longer then yesterday he brought hither a Lady prisoner, who at her first coming on shoare all to be whipt and beat her in such sorte that it would make the tyrannous tyrant to relent and pittie her distresses, swearing that euery day he would so torment her, till such time as her life and body did make their seperation.

Pollimus the Prince of Constantinople was very attentive to the olde mans words, thinking the Lady to be his Dileippa after whom he so long traueilled: the griefe he receaued at this report strooke such a terrour to his hart that he fell into a sound, and was not able to go any further.

But Saint Georges sonnes who knew him to bee a knight of much valour encouraged him, and protested by the honour of their knightshoodes neuer to forsake his company, till they saw his Lady deliuered from her torments and he safely conuoyed home into his owne countrey.

So traueiling with this resolution the night came on, and it was so darke, that they were constrained to seek some place to take their restes, and laying themselves downe vnder a broad branched tree of Oake, they passed the night pondering in their mindes a thousand imaginations.

So when the morning was come and that the Diamond of heauen began to glister with his beames vpon the

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the mountaine toppes, these martiall knights were not slothful, but rose vpp and followed their iourneies.

After this they had not traueiled scarce halfe a mile, when that they heard a pittifull lamentation of a woman, who by reason of her lowde thykes her voice was very hoarse, so they staid to heare from whence that lamentable noise should come.

And presently a farre off, they behelde a high pillar of stone, out of the which there came forth a spoute of faire and cleare water, and thereat was bounde a woman all naked, her backe fastned to the pillar, her armes backward embracing it, with her armes fast bounde behinde her.

Her skinne was so faire and white, that if it had not bene, that they heard her lamentation, they would haue iudged her to haue bene an image made artificially of alabaster tyned vnto the pillar.

These warlike knights laced on their helmets, and came vnto the place where she was, but when the prince of Constantinople saw her, he presently knewe her to be his Lady and louely mistresse.

For by reason of the coldnesse of the darke night, and with her great lamentation and weepings, she was so full of sorrow and affliction, that she could scarce speake.

Like wise the prince hart so yerned at the sight of his unhappy Lady, that almost he could not looke vpon her for weeping.

But yet at last with a sorrowfull sigh he said, Oh cruell hands is it possible that there should remaine in you so much mischief, that whereas there is such great beauty and fairenes, you should vse such basenes and villany? she doth moze deserue to be loued and serued, than to bee in this sort so euill intreated.

This wofull prince with much sorrow did behold her white skin and backe all to be spotted with her red bloud, and taking a cloake from one of the marriners, he threwe

The second Part of

it vpon her and couered her body, and took her in his armes, while the other knights vnloosed her.

This unhappy Lady neuer felt nor knew what was done vnto her, till such time as shee was vnbound from those bands and in the armes of her lover.

When giuing a terrible sigh she thought that shee had bene in the armes of the monstrous two headed knight crying, Oh Pollinus thou true betrothed husband where art thou now that thou comst not to succour me: and therewithall ceased her speeches.

This Prince hearing these words would haue answered her, but he was disturbed by hearing of a great noise of a horse, which seemed to be in the woods amongst the trees.

The rest of the knights intending to see what it should be left the Lady lying vpon the graine grasse in the keeping of Prince Pollinus and the squier and so saint Georges sonnes went towards the place, whereas they heard that rushing noise, and as they vigorously lookt about them they beheld the two headed monster mounted vpon a mighty and great palfrey, who returned to see if the Lady were alive for to torment her anew.

But when he came to the pillar and saw not the Lady, with an irreful look he cast his eyes, looking about him on every side, and at last he saw the three knights, coming towards him with a reasonable and quiet pace, and when the Lady was vnbound from the pillar wher he left her and in the armes of another knight making her sorrowfull complaint.

The two headed knight seeing them in this order, with great fury vpon his mighty horse he came towards them, and when he was neare them, he staid, and did behold the princely proportions, and gentle dispositions of the knights that without my leaue hath aduentured to vntie the Lady from the pillar wher I left her, O come you to offer vpper your blouds in sacrifice vpo my faction, to whom one of the

the seven Champions.

the three valiant brothers answered & said, we be knights of a strange countrey, that at the sorrowfull complaint of this Lady arrived in this place, and seeing her to be a faire and beautifull woman, and without any desert to be thus so evill intreated, it moveth vs to put our persons in adventure against them that will same farther to misuse her.

In the meane time that the knight was speaking these wordes, the deformed monster was beholding him very p̄sely, knitting his browes with the great anger hee receaved in hearing his speeches, and with great fury he spurred his monstrous beast, that he made him to give so mighty a leape that he had almost fallen vpon the English knight: who with great lightnes did deliuer himselfe, and so drawing forth his sword he would haue stroken him, but the beast passed by with so great fury that he could not reach him.

Here began as terrible a battaile betwixt the two headed knight and saint Georges sonnes, as euer was fought by any knights, their mighty blowes seemed to rattle in the elements like to a terrible thunder, and their swords to strike sparkling fier, in such abundance as though it had bene from a smithes anuile.

During this conflict the English knights were so grievously wounded, that all their bright armours were stained with a bloudy gozea and their helmets brused with the terrible stroakes of the monsters fauchion, whereat they grew moze enraged, and their strengthes beganne to increase in such sort that one of them stroake an ouerthwart blow with his trusty sword vpon his knee, and by reason that his armour was not very good he cut it cleane a sunder, so that legge and all fell to the ground, and the two headed knight fell on the other side to the earth, and with great rozing he began to stampe and stare like a beast, and to blaspheme against the heauens for this his sodaine mishap.

The second Part of

The other two brothers seeing this, presently cut off his two heads, whereby he was forced to yield to the mercy of imperious death.

There was another knight that came with the monster, who when he sawe all that had passed, with great feare returned the way from whence he came.

These victorious conquerours, when they sawe that with so great ease they were deliuered from the tyrantes cruelty, with lowde voices they saide, oh thou God whom we christians still doe worship, we doe giue thee humble thanks, and doe acknowledge this our good successe and victozy both procede from thee.

Therefore we doe promise and vow before thy celestiall Maiesty, that once comming to our father and the other Christian champions, generally to erect a shrine, and consecrate it to thy blessed sonne, vnder whose banner we euermore doe fight.

This being said, they departed with conquest to the Prince of Constantinople, where they left him comforting of his distressed Lady.

So when they were altogether, they commanded the mariners to prouide them somewhat to eat, for that they had great neede thereof, who presently prepared it, for that continuall they bore their prouision about them: of this banquet the knights were very glad, and reioyced much at that which they had atchieued and commanded that the Lady should be very well looked vnto and healed of her harime receaned.

So at the end of thre daies when the Princesse Lady had recovered her health, they left the countrey of Armenia and departed backe to the sea whereas they had left their ships lying at roade, and there tarried untill their comming.

Wherein they were no sooner entered, but the Mariners hoysed saile, and took their way toward Constantinople as the knights commanded. The windes serued them

the seven Champions.

them so prosperously, that within a small time they arrived in Greece, and landed within two dayes journey of the Courte: which laye then at Peru, a myle from Constantinople.

Being aland, the Prince Pollemus consulted with S. Georges three Sonnes, what course were best to be taken for their proceeding to the Court. For saith he, unlesse I may with the Emperour my fathers consent enioye my dearest Dulcippa, I wyll liue vnknownen in her compaignie, rather than delight in the heritage of ten such Emperours.

At last they concluded, that the Ladie should bee covered in a blacke veyle for being knownen. and Pollemus in black armes, and the other knights all sutable shuld ride together: which accordingly they did, and about tenne in the morning entred the Pallace: where they found the Emperour, the seven Champions with manie other princes in the great hall: to whom one of S. Georges Sons thus spake.

Great Emperour and noble knights, this knight that leadeth the Lady hath long loved her, in their birth there is great difference, so that their Parents crosse their affections: for him she hath indured much sorrow, for her he will and hath suffered manie hazards. His coming thus to your Court is to this end, to approue her the onely desertfull Ladie in the world, himselfe the faithfull knight against all knights whatsoeuer: which with your Emperiall leaue, he, my selfe and these two my associates will maintaine: desiring your Maiestie to giue iudgement as we shall deserue.

The Emperour condescended, and on the græne before the Pallace, those foure duertwemore than foure hundred knights: so that S. George and three other of the Champions entred the lyst, and ran three violent courses against the Blacke knights, without mouing them: who neuer suffered the pointes of their speares to touch the ar-

The second Part of the seven Champions.

mour of the Champions. Which the Emperour percei-
uing, gessest them to be of acquaintance: wherefore gy-
uing iudgement that the knight should possesse his Lady,
at his request they all discovered themselves.

To deseribe the delightfull comfort that the English
Champion toke in the presence of his Childzen, and the
ioy that the Emperour receiued at the returne of his lost
Sonne, requires more arte and eloquence, than my tyred
senses can affoord. I am therefore here forced to conclude
this Part, leauing the Flowers of Chualrie in the Cit-
tie of Constantinople. Of whose following Aduentures
I wil at large discourse hereafter: so that the gentle Rea-
der (with a kinde looke and a smiling countenance) wll
curteously accept of this which is already finished.

FINIS.

